

The Washington Post

Teen Marijuana Use Linked to Later Illness

Self-Medication, Especially for Depression, Raises Risk of Mental Problems, Study Says

By Lori Aratani
Washington Post Staff Writer
Friday, May 9, 2008; B04

Teenagers who smoke marijuana put themselves at risk for future mental illness and higher rates of depression, according to a report to be released today by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Although fewer teens overall are smoking marijuana, the report said, there is growing concern that those who do, particularly those who view the drug as a way to cope with depression, do not understand its consequences. It also is not clear whether their parents, who might have indulged when they were younger, understand the risks, experts say.

The report, whose release coincides with the start of Mental Health Awareness Month, said studies show links between marijuana use and risk of mental illness later in life, and that use could increase the risk by as much as 40 percent.

Teenage girls who smoke marijuana are particularly at risk, the report said. It found that teen girls who smoke marijuana daily are more likely to develop depression than those who do not.

(X) The report also found that teenagers who smoke marijuana at least once a month are three times more likely to have suicidal thoughts than non-users. It said that even though the percentage of teens who are depressed is equal to the percentage of adults who say they are depressed, teenagers are more likely to seek solace in marijuana or other illicit drugs.

(X) "Significant numbers of teenagers are self-medicating," said John P. Walters, director of the White House office. "They're turning to marijuana to reduce [symptoms of depression], and [the depression] is getting worse."

(X) The report said that too often teens do not seek treatment for their depression, choosing instead to seek relief by smoking marijuana. They do not realize that pot can make their problems worse and can set them up for serious health consequences, it said.

Susan Lydick, coordinator of the Youth Suicide and Depression Initiative at the Fairfax Partnership for Youth, said the report offers new information to parents and the general public -- groups that are often unaware of the interplay between drug use and depression.

Walters said advances in technology allow researchers to better understand the effect drugs such as marijuana have on brain function. The research being done today "is breaking new ground in showing the role marijuana use is playing in depression," he said.

Added Larry Greenhill, president-elect of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry: "What's new in this report is that it documents how serious the impact is of what was thought to be a mild

Advertisement - Your Ad Here

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 3-20-09
SB 320

Sprint

Everything Data Family Plan

Save \$360 annually over comparable AT&T and Verizon plans.

Get it now →

[home](#) | [about spiked](#) | [issues](#) | [support spiked](#) | [get spiked by email](#)

Wednesday 7 May 2008

New Labour's schizo policy on cannabis

The government is happier punishing cannabis users than admitting it cannot inspire youth to do something more interesting than get stoned.

Rob Johnston

Today, the British government will ignore its own Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) and announce its intention to reclassify cannabis so that possession of it will carry harsher penalties. This is despite the fact that cannabis use has declined in the four years since it was 'downgraded' and the police will not change the way they deal with possession on the street.

Up until four years ago, cannabis was categorised as a 'class B' drug, which meant that in theory - if not in practice - people caught in possession of the drug on the street could expect to be arrested. The maximum penalty for possession of a class B drug is five years. In January 2004, cannabis was downgraded to 'class C', meaning lower penalties and a 'presumption against arrest'.

class	drugs included	possession	dealing
Class A	Ecstasy, LSD, heroin, cocaine, crack, magic mushrooms, amphetamines (if prepared for injection).	Up to seven years in prison or an unlimited fine or both.	Up to life in prison or an unlimited fine or both.
Class B	Amphetamines, Methylphenidate (Ritalin), Pholcodine.	Up to five years in prison or an unlimited fine or both.	Up to 14 years in prison or an unlimited fine or both.
Class C	Cannabis, tranquilisers, some painkillers, Gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB), Ketamine.	Up to two years in prison or an unlimited fine or both.	Up to 14 years in prison or an unlimited fine or both.

current drug classification (source: Home Office)

The main excuse given for returning cannabis to class B is a link between smoking 'skunk' cannabis and the development of schizophrenia - even though causation is a long way from proven.

Over the next few days, conventional wisdom will be often repeated, even by those who should know better. The myth (usually expressed in a tone of regret) is that the mild and mellow hash smoked by the flower-power generation has been swept aside by genetically modified 'super skunk' (1) that is 10-30 times stronger. Just one spliff raises the threat of schizophrenia by 40 per cent (2) and can cause lifelong mental illness or suicide (3). Teenagers who smoke cannabis regularly can turn into psychotic, slaving serial killers (4).

Reclassification of cannabis is supposed to 'send a message', but the message it sends is that politicians do not understand either young people or probability.

'Using cannabis doubles your risk of getting schizophrenia' - say psychiatrists (5). Even if that

statistic is proved true, it could almost be a *pro-dope* argument:



- If 100 teenagers do not use cannabis, one will eventually develop schizophrenia
- If 100 teenagers use cannabis regularly, two will eventually develop schizophrenia
- If 100 teenagers use cannabis heavily for several years, five will eventually develop schizophrenia.

In other words, 95 per cent of teenagers could smoke the drug every day for years and not get schizophrenia. Teenagers despise hypocrisy, double standards and scare stories. In fact, programmes that try to scare teenagers into 'better' conduct actually lead to more offending behaviour (6).

Instead of spending years locked in a bedroom smoking dope, teenagers should be out exploring the world, having new experiences and relationships, doing things they enjoy and things they will regret, testing their limits and learning about life. That politicians and the generation in charge have created a nation in which so many young adults want to spend their formative years in a stupefied dope haze demonstrates the contempt our society has for the young in general. Rather than address this wider issue, the powers-that-be seem happier to crack down on the symptoms - dope smoking - rather than tackling the cause - the loss of any sense of purpose in society.

Sadly, the cannabis/schizophrenia controversy is too great a temptation for all the vested interests not to take advantage. Gordon Brown looks tough as he contradicts the advice of namby-pamby 'experts', clinical researchers get grants for more studies, mental health charities have their turn in the spotlight, newspapers can scream about axe-murderers ... and drug dealers profit from free advertising about 'super strong skunk'.

But, every part of the conventional wisdom is simply wrong.

The super-skunk fallacy

Just about every commentator trots out the 'fact' that powerful 'skunk' has replaced cannabis resin ('hash') and is 10 (or more) times stronger than in the 1960s, '...when I was a flower power acolyte, smoking grass' - says Marjorie Wallace of SANE, the mental health charity (7).

'Skunk' is sinsemilla, which has always been available at a price. It is composed of the unpollinated, flowering buds of the female cannabis plant and, in its raw state, has a higher concentration of THC (the chemical that gives a 'high') than imported 'hash' (cannabis resin). The other product, now much less commonly found, is 'herbal cannabis' - chopped up leaves and seeds.

The Forensic Science Service (FSS) say THC content of skunk has increased from six percent in 1995 to 10-11 per cent today (8). The THC potency of most cannabis resin samples in 2005 was between two and six per cent (9). But FSS sources use no common standards for testing THC content and are vague about the term 'street seizures' and whether that refers to final product or raw materials and whether the claimed THC levels are in oils or dried samples (10).

Individuals and criminal gangs now grow most of the cannabis consumed in Britain. Like all good small businesses, they have improved their product over the years and their plants, indeed, produce higher levels of THC. However, also like good small businesses, they do not give away more than they must. The extremely high levels of THC reported in sinsemilla 'skunk' are not necessarily found in seizures on the street, but in samples from plants found in cannabis 'factories'. By the time 'skunk' reaches the street, it is almost certainly adulterated with leaves and twigs to bulk up the content.

Casual users - like casual drinkers - probably adjust their usage anyway. Everyone but alcoholics drink vodka at a much slower rate than they drink beer. The same is likely to be true of cannabis users, who will simply use less of a potent product in a joint.

Schizophrenia

Schizophrenia is the most feared psychiatric diagnosis, thanks to media portrayals of psycho-killers, institutionalized zombies and aggressive tramps who shriek at invisible tormentors. Far from the Jekyll and Hyde caricature, schizophrenia is a 'split' in the normal 'internal monologue' with which we talk to ourselves, work things out, think happy thoughts and express inner doubts.

Another voice appears, at first infrequently. It can offer a running commentary, be full of praise, or be 'the voice of God' – Joan of Arc was probably at this stage in schizophrenia. The voice may be barely noticed in the pre-teens and only become regular during puberty – provoked by hormonal surges and personal and educational stress. Over years, the voice can further split into different 'characters' and become insulting and hostile; rarely, it urges suicide, even more rarely, violence.

Along with auditory hallucinations often come delusions of being watched, persecuted or controlled and seeing hidden messages in anything from television programmes to song lyrics. Depression and paranoia may go on for years before they become too much to bear and disturbed behaviour attracts attention – commonly between 19-25 years of age.

Well before diagnosis, people often find that self-medication with alcohol or drugs can temporarily quieten or calm the voices. It is unusual for an untreated schizophrenic not to abuse alcohol, nicotine and/or other illegal drugs. Because schizophrenia and intoxicants go together and cannabis use is now so widespread it is extremely difficult to determine whether cannabis has caused the disease or is a symptom of the pre-existing mental disorder.

If there is a strong causative link between smoking cannabis and schizophrenia, there would have been an epidemic of the disease that followed the large increase in consumption of cannabis over the last 30 years. But there has been no such increase; the prevalence of schizophrenia has not increased. What has increased is the number of people admitted to hospital with cannabis intoxication – which mirrors the number of people admitted to hospital with alcohol intoxication.

Schizophrenia - early factors

There is a large genetic component: if a parent is schizophrenic, a child's risk is 10 times greater; if one identical twin has schizophrenia, the other's risk is 50 times greater (11).

Many fetal/birth factors double the hazard (as much as is claimed for cannabis use): maternal diabetes or exposure to famine or viral infections; emergency caesarean section; premature birth, low birth weight, oxygen starvation, birth complications, needing an incubator; being an unwanted child or father dying before birth; being born or brought up in a city; below-normal IQ and autistic spectrum disorders.

Migrating to a new country increases the risk 18 times; a mother who doesn't understand you increases the risk 5.8 times; being in an ethnic minority carries a sliding scale – the more of you there are, the better your chance of avoiding the disease.

There are some very early indicators of risk (12): delayed speech and motor development; late learning to stand, walk or potty-train; poor motor function, autistic spectrum disorders, being kept back a year at school, attention deficit, poor verbal memory. In one study, it was possible for researchers to spot which individuals went on to develop schizophrenia from home movies of very young children – simply from their behaviour.

In a three- or four-year-old, it is perfectly normal to have an 'invisible friend' or stuffed toys that 'talk', but in a nine- or 10-year-old these could be a risk for later psychotic disease. One in seven 'normal' children and teenagers may hear voices occasionally, be paranoid, or feel 'controlled' and that something is wrong with their minds. In later childhood, behavioural disorders, family breakdown, loss of attachment to key adults, abuse and neglect all increase the risk for schizophrenia.

Modern studies attempt to identify children with such very early signs of the potential to develop schizophrenia and exclude them from analyses of teenagers who use cannabis, to correct for those who might have taken up cannabis to deal with early symptoms. So far, studies have excluded patients with possible psychotic symptoms occurring after 11 years of age, but not before.

Of course, all those risk factors for schizophrenia are also risk factors for alcohol, cannabis and drug misuse, smoking, depression and criminality.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it is still not possible to say whether cannabis use causes schizophrenia or is an early sign of the disturbed mental state.

Cannabis is not a benign substance for the developing adolescent brain but there is no convincing evidence that smoking a few joints will inevitably cause psychotic disease. 'Old-fashioned mellow hash' has not been swept aside by 'genetically-modified super-skunk' with astronomically high levels of THC.

The argument about cannabis and schizophrenia reflects the modern view of children. In the memories of the 1968 generation, the 'mild and gentle weed' they smoked and made them mellow has been replaced by 'skunk' which turns today's children into aggressive and anti-social monsters. So these anti-social, destructive, feral youth can be pathologised and medicalised out of the way.

All these myths play into the hands of the government, ever-wary of upsetting its cosy relationship with the most reactionary elements in the press.

Rob Johnston is a freelance writer on the environment, health and science.

Previously on *spiked*

Neil Davenport called cannabis the political class' drug of choice. He also asked why everyone loves 'Dopey' David Cameron. **Jamie Douglass** looked at Charles Clarke's bad trip and drug use in schools. **Josie Appleton** looked at how morality is being injected into the drugs debate. Or read more at *spiked* issue Drink and drugs.

- (1) Superskunk me: What happened when one woman smoked dope daily for a month for a BBC documentary, *Daily Mail*, 25 March 2008
- (2) Smoking just one cannabis joint raises danger of mental illness by 40%, *Daily Mail*, 25 July 2007
- (3) One spliff can mean lifelong mental illness, *Daily Telegraph*, 9 March 2007
- (4) Smoking just one cannabis joint raises danger of mental illness by 40%, *Daily Mail*, 25 July 2007
- (5) Schizophrenia: what causes schizophrenia? Mental Health Information leaflet, Royal College of Psychiatrists
- (6) 'Scared Straight' and other juvenile awareness programs for preventing juvenile delinquency, Cochrane Reviews, 22 April 2002
- (7) One spliff can mean lifelong mental illness, *Daily Telegraph*, 9 March 2007
- (8) Use of extra strong 'skunk' cannabis soars, *Daily Telegraph*, 7 February 2008
- (9) Rising potency of street seizures of cannabis, Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland
- (10) The 'Skunk' panic. Cannabis strength/potency – what does it actually mean?, UK Cannabis Internet Activists.
- (11) Schizophrenia: what causes schizophrenia? Mental Health Information leaflet, Royal College of Psychiatrists
- (12) Tonya White et al. The Schizophrenia Prodrome, *Treatment in Psychiatry*, 3 March 2006

reprinted from: <http://www.spiked-online.com/index.php?/site/article/5101/>

Flaggman's Canada

July 27, 2007...12:40 am

Marijuana is Harmless - Except for that Psychosis Thing...

[Jump to Comments](#)

We've all heard the pro-Pot propaganda - "it's harmless", "it's not addictive", "I know a doctor/lawyer/businessman/writer/(your profession here) who smokes marijuana twice a day, and is a leader in his field."

On the third point - you're probably being lied to, as successful adults generally do not have drug habits, and those who do quickly burn out in a blaze of misery. On the second point - you're certainly being lied to, as *anything* can be addictive (particularly, anything that numbs the mind). On the first point, science is once again confirming that regular marijuana use is anything but harmless. A study released today by British researchers concludes that regular marijuana use increases by up to 300% the chances of developing mental psychosis at a later age:

Smoking Pot Makes People More Prone to Psychosis

By Eva von Schaper - July 27 (Bloomberg) — Smoking marijuana increases the risk of developing psychosis later in life by 40 percent, with heavy users having an even higher risk of mental problems, British researchers said.

The researchers analyzed 35 previous studies and concluded that using **marijuana or cannabis raised the risk of hallucinating and being delusional later in life.**

Marijuana is the most commonly used illegal drug in countries including the U.S. and the U.K., the authors, led by Glyn Lewis of the University of Bristol, said in the study, published today in The Lancet. Reducing the use of cannabis may help avoid 14 percent of psychoses in Britain, they said.

"We now know that there is a long-term risk associated with the use of cannabis," Merete Nordentoft, of the department of psychiatry at the Copenhagen University Hospital, said in an interview. Nordentoft, in a

commentary accompanying the study, said there is a need to warn the public and establish treatments to help users.

The studies that were examined included patients with disorders such as psychosis, schizophrenia, delusions and hallucinations, the researchers said. A link to depression or obsessive compulsive disorder couldn't be as clearly established, they said. The research was funded by the U.K.'s Department of Health.



Friday, April 13, 2007

The Genetics of Depression

Ongoing, large-scale genetic studies of mood disorders could help researchers understand and treat these devastating diseases.

By Emily Singer


In the past few years, complex genetic diseases such as Alzheimer's and diabetes have slowly yielded their genetic secrets. But depression and bipolar disorder, two mood disorders that take a massive toll on public health worldwide, have yet to succumb to genetic analysis.

That could change in the next few months with the release of the results of two large-scale studies, one of depression and one of bipolar disorder. Scientists have scoured the genomes of participants in these trials for genetic clues into why they suffer from these diseases, as well as why people respond so differently to drugs.

"We hope genetics will reveal novel biological mechanisms or hypotheses that could open new windows in how to treat the disorder," says Jordan Smoller (<http://pngu.mgh.harvard.edu/faculty/smoller/>), a psychiatrist and geneticist at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital, in Boston, who is involved in the studies. "We've seen some evidence that those kinds of things are possible in some other conditions, like Alzheimer's disease or obesity, which were not well understood until genetic findings began to reveal unexpected genetic pathways."

While effective treatments exist for some patients suffering from depression or bipolar disorder, a huge number of people fail to find relief in existing drugs. They may spend weeks, months, or even years trying out different medications, some suffering serious side effects in addition to the symptoms of their disease. One recent trial, for example, found that only a third of the people diagnosed with depression see symptoms subside with the first drug they're given. And the second drug works in less than a third of the remaining group.

Uncovering the genetic variations underlying these disorders could help. But mood disorders are likely caused by many different genetic variations, each contributing a relatively small effect. "To find genes associated with macular degeneration, it took about 500 patients, Crohn's disease, 1,500 patients, type 2 diabetes, about 10,000 patients," says Pamela Sklar (<http://pngu.mgh.harvard.edu/faculty/sklar/>), a geneticist

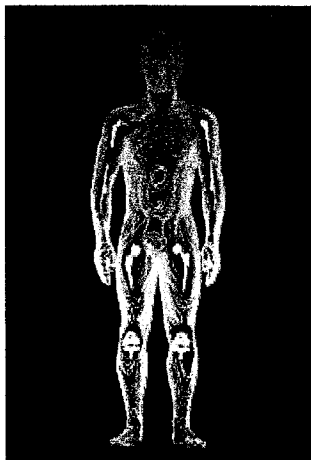
at the Broad Institute and Massachusetts General Hospital. "We think we'll need 10,000 people to uncover genes for bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, and about 15,000 to 20,000 patients for depression." 

Two large-scale, multicenter trials could bring the first wave of answers. The STAR*D (http://www.nimh.nih.gov/healthinformation/stard_qa_general.cfm) (Sequenced Treatment Alternatives for Depression) trial, a seven-year study that concluded last year, was designed to help doctors figure out how to treat patients who fail to respond to the first drug they are given for depression. With 4,000 patients at 30 clinical sites around the country, the trial is the largest of its kind. Researchers are currently analyzing samples from nearly 2,000 participants to try to find both the genes that contribute to depression and those genes that predict how patients will respond to treatment.

Last year, scientists released the results from the first genetic analysis of the STAR*D trial. They found that people with a specific variation in a receptor for the chemical messenger serotonin were more likely to respond to citalopram, an antidepressant that targets the serotonin system. Scientists are now analyzing the DNA of patients in the study who responded to different classes of antidepressants. "We want to determine if genetic makeup can tell us which medications are good or bad for individual patients," says A. John Rush, a psychiatrist at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, in Dallas, who is leading the STAR*D trial.

A similar trial for bipolar disorder, called the STEP-BD (<http://www.stepbd.org/>) (Systematic Treatment Enhancement Program for Bipolar Disorder) trial, wrapped up this month, and scientists are running similar genetic studies in search of the genetic roots of this disease. Both groups are focusing on specific regions of the genome that have previously been linked to the disorders, as well as using newer genomics technology--DNA microarrays that can analyze thousands of genetic variations in a single experiment--to scan the entire genome for clues. Scientists say that they expect to publish results within the next few months.

The findings might ultimately help psychiatrists redefine these complex disorders. For example, patients diagnosed with depression can have very different symptoms, and many symptoms are common to both depression and bipolar disorders. "We have diagnosis of mood disorders and other psychiatric disorders, but it's not entirely clear if genes are influencing these disorders per se, or if they influence specific symptoms that cut across diagnostic categories," says Smoller. "Genetic studies may tell us something about how we understand the relationships between different disorders."



Health Concerns: WHAT ARE THE MEDICAL DANGERS OF MARIJUANA USE?

I must preface these statements with the remark that there is still a great deal of research to be done concerning the effects of marijuana on the health of humans due to the fact that widespread marijuana use has only become prevalent in this country within the last three decades, so the effects of long-term use are just beginning to become apparent. I should also add that in making these observations, I have concentrated on the risks of smoking natural marijuana, since it is the most effective method of ingesting its active cannabinoids.

Marijuana has often been touted as one of the safest recreational substances available. This is perhaps true; many reputable scientific studies support the conclusion that cocaine, heroine, alcohol, and even cigarettes are more dangerous to the user's health than marijuana. In addition, the celebrated pharmacological properties of cannabis have led thirty-six states to permit its use as a therapeutic drug for, among others, those suffering from AIDS; various painful, incurable and debilitating illnesses; the harmful side effects of cancer chemotherapy, and glaucoma. Additional research is being conducted concerning the use of marijuana on the treatment of anxiety and mental disorders.

X
Nonetheless, it would be fallacious to conclude that because the chemicals in marijuana have been found to present fewer dangers than some very harmful substances, the medical or recreational use of marijuana is perfectly safe. In a recreational context, marijuana has been shown to affect health, brain function, and memory. And in a medical context, marijuana is like any other powerful prescription drug: it has potentially dangerous side effects, and the decision to use it to treat patients must involve the same balancing test as the one required for chemotherapy or AZT: do the therapeutic effects of the drug outweigh its harmful effects? Though there are many more studies to be done on this issue, current data shows that the answer to this question may not always be "yes."

EFFECTS OF HABITUAL MARIJUANA USE ON THE IMMUNE SYSTEM

The most potent argument against the use of marijuana to treat medical disorders is that marijuana may cause the acceleration or aggravation of the very disorders it is being used to treat.

Q
Smoking marijuana regularly (a joint a day) can damage the cells in the bronchial passages which protect the body against inhaled microorganisms and decrease the ability of the immune cells in the lungs to fight off fungi, bacteria, and tumor cells. For patients with already weakened immune systems, this means an increase in the possibility of dangerous pulmonary infections, including pneumonia, which often proves fatal in AIDS patients.

Studies further suggest that marijuana is a general "immunosuppressant" whose degenerative

Upcoming Events

Cleantech Capital Summit (<http://www.infocastinc.com/cleantech>)

San Diego, CA

Wednesday, April 22, 2009 - Friday, April 24, 2009

<http://www.infocastinc.com/cleantech> (<http://www.infocastinc.com/cleantech>)

South By Southwest (<http://www.sxsw.com/interactive>)

Austin, Texas

Friday, March 13, 2009 - Tuesday, March 17, 2009

<http://www.sxsw.com/interactive> (<http://www.sxsw.com/interactive>)

Web 2.0 Expo San Francisco (<http://www.web2expo.com/sf>)

San Francisco, CA

Tuesday, March 31, 2009 - Friday, April 03, 2009

<http://www.web2expo.com/sf> (<http://www.web2expo.com/sf>)

MIT Sustainability Summit: Discovering New Dimensions for Growth **(<http://sustainabilitysummit.mit.edu/>)**

Cambridge, MA

Friday, April 24, 2009

<http://sustainabilitysummit.mit.edu/> (<http://sustainabilitysummit.mit.edu/>)

The Front End of Innovation (<http://www.iirusa.com/feiusa/fei-home.xml>)

Boston, MA

Monday, May 18, 2009 - Wednesday, May 20, 2009

<http://www.iirusa.com/feiusa/fei-home.xml> (<http://www.iirusa.com/feiusa/fei-home.xml>)

MIT Sloan CIO Symposium: Sustaining CIO Leadership in a Changing Economy **(<http://www.mitcio.com/>)**

Cambridge, MA

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

<http://www.mitcio.com/> (<http://www.mitcio.com/>)

recommended are already poorly equipped to fight off these infections and diseases.

For more information, please see the Tashkin website mentioned at the end of the section on immune disorders. See also:

- www.sarnia.com/GROUPS/ANTIDRUG/mrr/21.96.10.html, for information on the link between chemicals contained in marijuana and lung cancer.
- http://www.marijuananeews.com/latest_research_finds_that_heavy.htm, for an article concerning the link between marijuana and cancer, with commentary

MENTAL HEALTH, BRAIN FUNCTION, AND MEMORY

It has been suggested that marijuana is at the root of many mental disorders, including acute toxic psychosis, panic attacks (one of the very conditions it is being used experimentally to treat), flashbacks, delusions, depersonalization, hallucinations, paranoia, depression, and uncontrollable aggressiveness. Marijuana has long been known to trigger attacks of mental illness, such as bipolar (manic-depressive) psychosis and schizophrenia. This connection with mental illness should make health care providers for terminally ill patients and the patients themselves, who may already be suffering from some form of clinical depression, weigh very carefully the pros and cons of adopting a therapeutic course of marijuana.

In the short term, marijuana use impairs perception, judgment, thinking, memory, and learning; memory defects may persist six weeks after last use. Mental disorders connected with marijuana use merit their own category in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) IV, published by the American Psychiatric Association. These include Cannabis Intoxication (consisting of impaired motor coordination, anxiety, impaired judgment, sensation of slowed time, social withdrawal, and often includes perceptual disturbances; Cannabis Intoxication Delirium (memory deficit, disorientation); Cannabis Induced Psychotic Disorder, Delusions; Cannabis Induced Psychotic Disorder, Hallucinations; and Cannabis Induced Anxiety Disorder.

In addition, marijuana use has many indirect effects on health. Its effect on coordination, perception, and judgment means that it causes a number of accidents, vehicular and otherwise.

For further information, you may find the following sites helpful:

- www.sarnia.com/GROUPS/ANTIDRUG/reality/updatejl.html, for information on links between marijuana use and mental health risks.
- www.sarnia.com/GROUPS/ANTIDRUG/mrr/21.96.10.html, for more information on the indirect effects of marijuana on health
- <http://www.adf.org.au/drughit>, the Australian Drug Foundation's website
- http://marijuananeews.com/a_safe_high_.htm, a reprint of New Science magazine's "Marijuana Special Report: A Safe High?" with commentary
- http://marijuananeews.com/claim_four.htm, an article about the similarity of long-term marijuana use's effect on the brain to that of "hard" drugs, with commentary
- www.drugs.indiana.edu/publications/iprc/misc/smokescreen.html, for general information on the health risks of marijuana.
- <http://www.health.org>, the homepage of the National Clearinghouse on Alcohol and Drug Information, for general information on marijuana.

influence extends beyond the respiratory system. Regular smoking has been shown to materially affect the overall ability of the smoker's body to defend itself against infection by weakening various natural immune mechanisms, including macrophages (a.k.a. "killer cells") and the all-important T-cells. Obviously, this suggests the conclusion, which is well-supported by scientific studies, that the use of marijuana as a medical therapy can and does have a very serious negative effect on patients with pre-existing immune deficits resulting from AIDS, organ transplantation, or cancer chemotherapy, *the very conditions for which marijuana has most often been touted and suggested as a treatment*. It has also been shown that marijuana use can accelerate the progression of HIV to full-blown AIDS and increase the occurrence of infections and Kaposi's sarcoma. In addition, patients with weak immune systems will be even less able to defend themselves against the various respiratory cancers and conditions to which consistent marijuana use has been linked, and which are discussed briefly under "Respiratory Illnesses."

In conclusion, it seems that the potential dangers presented by the medical use of marijuana may actually contribute to the dangers of the diseases which it would be used to combat. Therefore, I suggest that marijuana should not be permitted as a therapy, at least until a good deal more conclusive research has been completed concerning its debilitating effect on the immune system.

For more on this topic, please see Donald P. Tashkin, M.D., "Effects of Marijuana on the Lung and Its Immune Defenses," Secretary's Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Initiative: Resource Papers, March 1997, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. Pages 33-51 of this address can be found at the website of the Indiana Prevention Resource Center at Indiana University, located at <http://www.drugs.indiana.edu/druginfo/tashkin-marijuana.html>.

RESPIRATORY ILLNESSES

The main respiratory consequences of smoking marijuana regularly (one joint a day) are pulmonary infections and respiratory cancer, whose connection to marijuana use has been strongly suggested but not conclusively proven. The effects also include chronic bronchitis, impairment in the function of the smaller air passages, inflammation of the lung, the development of potentially pre-cancerous abnormalities in the bronchial lining and lungs, and, as discussed, a reduction in the capabilities of many defensive mechanisms within the lungs.

Marijuana smoke and cigarette smoke contain many of the same toxins, including one which has been identified as a key factor in the promotion of lung cancer. This toxin is found in the tar phase of both, and it should be noted that one joint has four times more tar than a cigarette, which means that the lungs are exposed four-fold to this toxin and others in the tar. It has been concretely established that smoking cigarettes promotes lung cancer (which causes more than 125,000 deaths in the US every year), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (chronic bronchitis and emphysema) and increased incidence of respiratory tract infections. This implies, but does not establish, that smoking marijuana may lead to some of the same results as smoking cigarettes. It is notable that several reports indicate an unexpectedly large proportion of marijuana users among cases of lung cancer and cancers of the oral cavity, pharynx, and larynx. Thus, it appears that the use of marijuana as a medicine has the potential to further harm an already ill patient in the same way that taking up regular cigarette smoking would, particularly in light of the fact that those patients for whom marijuana is

Drug Rehab Help Line
For Help call 1-877-801-5469



Drug Rehab
About us
Drug Rehab
Success/info
Get Help Now

DRUG REHAB

News Releases

Warning On Meth Laced Marijuana

Drug Information:

- Crack & Cocaine
- Methamphetamine
- Heroin
- Ecstasy
- Marijuana

01/16/2008

POLICE ISSUE WARNING ON METH-LACED MARIJUANA

Police have issued a warning about crystal meth-laced marijuana.

While the police here have not actually seized any tainted marijuana, it is something officers are hearing on the street and wanted to warn the public about.

The police have received information that this is occurring in order to facilitate a new addiction to methamphetamines in those that are using marijuana recreationally or in a social capacity.

Methamphetamines can be consumed in a variety of ways, including, but not limited to, snorting, injecting and smoking.

Incorporating meth into a marijuana joint would be a simple matter and could easily be undetected by the unsuspecting user of the altered marijuana. Dealers will mix drugs in order to spark growth in the market. It's been done with other drugs to encourage people to get hooked.

The police say they are concerned about this as the use of meth, whether or not it's combined with marijuana, can cause extremely serious addiction problems.

They are encouraging members of the public to come forward if they have information on meth traffickers.

Community members who have concerns about suspicious persons or residences in their area may rest assured that all information received will be immediately reviewed and acted upon appropriately.

One of the main organizers of a pair of crystal meth community this month, said that the sessions were well attended by hundreds of students, residents, business owners and health professionals.

Drug Rehab news

Drug Rehab for suspended driver

Woman in Coroner case to enter drug rehab.

CO-defendant coroner to enter drug rehab program

push for drug rehab over incarceration faltering

Delaware, Trinidad to collaborate on drug rehab education

Would Mexico pay for drug rehab

Queens Drug Rehab Fined \$16.5M for Fraud

[« back to index](#)

Drug Rehab.us

For Help call 1-877-801-5469

Please fill out this information form. All the information provided is held in strict confidence. The Drug Rehab Helpline will assist you in finding a good drug or alcohol rehabilitation facility to achieve complete rehabilitation

Your Name:

Email:

Phone #:

[Submit Information](#)

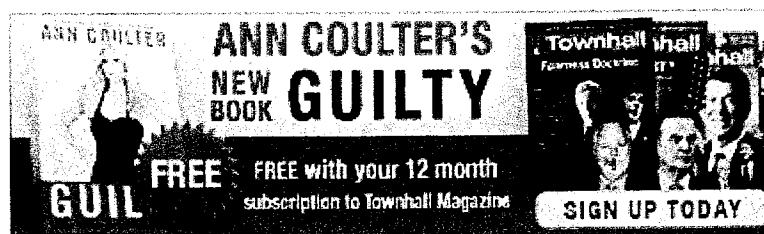
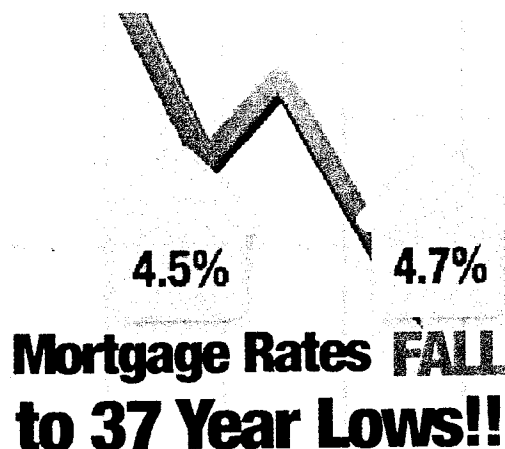
[Reset Form](#)

Arizona in the Cross Hairs

George Will

Thursday, March 19, 2009

PHOENIX -- X-Caliber, a gun store in a nondescript neighborhood in this city's northern section, has become embroiled in Mexico's turmoil. The chaos there is the result of the Mexican government's decision to wage war against rampant drug cartels that are fighting mostly against each other but also against the portions of Mexican law enforcement they have not corrupted. Operating in that nation's north, they are serving this nation's appetite for illegal narcotics and illegal immigrants.



The gun shop's proprietor, the name of whose shop might indicate familiarity with Arthurian legend, is on trial here, accused of selling at least 650 weapons, including AK-47 rifles, in small lots to "straw buyers" -- persons who illegally pass the weapons on to the cartels, thereby fueling the violence that killed more than 6,000 Mexicans last year. That was more than 2,000 above the 2007 toll and fewer than will die if the rate of killing so far this year continues. (U.S. military fatalities in Iraq in six years number 4,249.) Fortunately, most of the fatalities are members of the warring cartels.

The prosecution of the proprietor is part of the U.S. attempt to stop the southward flow of weapons and bulk currency while Mexico combats the northward flow of drugs, and of human beings brought by "coyotes." But although almost all the cartels' weapons come from the United States, the cartels are generating upward of \$15 billion annually from drugs, human trafficking and extortion. So they will find ways to get guns -- and grenades and other military weapons -- for their internecine disputes about control over routes for smuggling drugs and people.

When Gen. Michael Hayden stepped down as CIA director, he listed Mexico among America's biggest national security concerns. But even allowing for the stresses arising from the global economic downturn, speculation that Mexico, with the world's 13th-largest economy, is sinking toward the status of a "failed state" is far-fetched, as is the idea that the cartels can withstand a determined drive by the Mexican military, assisted by U.S. military technologies.

The turmoil is, however, taking a toll on Arizona, which has a 370-mile border with Mexico. Terry Goddard, Arizona's attorney general, says this is a "transit state" not a "destination state." Phoenix is a distribution center for smuggled drugs destined for more than 230 American cities, and for people. Each commodity is stashed in different "drop houses." The people are kept in what Goddard calls "cattle-car conditions." He says that although a million people a year are moving north through Arizona, it is still a seller's market for traffickers in human beings.

Extrapolating from wire transfers of hundreds of millions of dollars from customers in dozens of U.S. states to smugglers operating in Arizona, Goddard believes that the "coyotes" who bring in the human contraband are extremely violent extensions of the cartels. One gang will swoop down on a "drop house" holding smuggled persons, or on a truck carrying such persons on the interstate from Tucson, and then "negotiate" their own deals with people who thought they had already paid for the smuggling. Some who object are shot in the head, which is,

Goddard says, "a pretty good technique" for encouraging payments from the others. He estimates that half of Phoenix's 169 murders last year were related to human and drug smuggling.

Mexico, he says, is no longer importing up to four times more pseudoephedrine than its pharmaceutical industry requires. This ingredient was used to make methamphetamines destined for the U.S. market. Today, measured by volume (millions of pounds) and profit (up to 70 percent of the cartels' earnings), the biggest business is still marijuana. It is shipped in two-ton lots, in trucks that cross over the border fence without touching it, using "bridges" that can be assembled in 90 seconds at places identified by spotters who are equipped to live in the desert for weeks at a time. They can report where U.S. border patrols are at any moment.

All this has rekindled the debate -- a hardy perennial -- about crimping the cartels' marijuana market by legalizing their product in the United States. Whatever the merits of legalization -- and there are certain to be costs -- it will not happen in the foreseeable future, which is where Arizonans must live.

There are more than 6,600 licensed American gun dealers on the 2,000-mile border with Mexico. They should obey the law, even though most of the victims of the cartels' violence deserve to be.

Copyright © 2009 Salem Web Network. All Rights Reserved.

[Ads by Google](#)

Basic Training

Be the best Husband, Dad, Man you can
be!

FamilyMatters.net



PHOENIX Foreclosed Home Auction

[Click Here To See Our Homes](#)



Los Angeles Times World

You are here: LAT Home > Articles > 2008 > June > 03 > World



Archive for Tuesday, June 03, 2008

Mexico vs. drug gangs: A deadly clash for control

President Felipe Calderon says the violence is one measure of success: It shows that the cartels have been hurt badly and are now are lashing out at the government and one another.

By Ken Ellingwood

June 03, 2008 in print edition A-1

Mexico is at war.

Helmeted army troops steer Humvees past strip malls in the border city of Nuevo Laredo, some of the 40,000 soldiers and 5,000 federal police officers President **Felipe Calderon** has deployed to secure large swaths of the country against entrenched drug traffickers.

The No. 2 police officer from Ciudad Juarez dies in a hail of bullets, and his boss resigns after receiving threats over the police force's own radio frequency.

Criminals unleash machine guns and grenades in urban battles that the State Department describes as "equivalent to military small-unit combat."

In the year and a half since Calderon launched a crackdown against drug gangs, about 4,100 people have died, the government says. At least 1,400 have been killed so far this year, including 170 in Tijuana, about 400 in Ciudad Juarez and 270 more in the western state of Sinaloa.

Many of the dead were gang members killed by rivals or by the government. Others have been bystanders. But at least 450 police officers and soldiers also have been killed.

"It is a real fight," Calderon told reporters recently. "It is a war."

The president asserts that the level of violence is one measure of success. He says the cartels have been hurt badly, and that they are now lashing out at the government and battling one another for control of territory.

In addition to using military force, Calderon is seeking to strengthen and clean up Mexico's police. Judicial reforms, such as expanded use of plea-bargaining, are aimed at inducing low-ranking suspects to testify against their superiors. And Calderon has agreed to extradite more than 70 jailed drug suspects to the United States.

But for now, the bulwark of his strategy is the army, which says it has made more than 5,800 arrests and intercepted 2,900 tons of marijuana and 24 tons of cocaine. One commentator calculated that overall, drug seizures have cost traffickers as much as \$20 billion. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration reported in November that street prices of cocaine and methamphetamine had risen, and purity levels had fallen — signs interdiction was working.

Despite the effort, many doubt that Calderon is winning the war. A poll in the Reforma daily on Sunday said 53% of Mexicans believe drug gangs have the upper hand. The killing of Mexico's top drug cop in his Mexico City home last month by traffickers with keys to the house shows infiltration at the highest level, they note.

In Sinaloa state, traffickers have hung posters mocking the 3,600 troops there as "little lead soldiers." In Nuevo Laredo and Reynosa, another border city, recent banners advertised jobs in the Zetas, one of the country's most feared crime groups, to soldiers and former soldiers. They offered "good wages, food and help for your family."

Drug traffickers use severed heads as a tool of terror, leaving them with notes to taunt police and one another.

Political analysts say the campaign has succeeded mainly in pushing violence from one region to another, without uprooting the mafias that are challenging the power of the Mexican state. Federal troops often are introduced only after particularly violent outbreaks. They have helped bring calm to Nuevo Laredo, in Tamaulipas state, for example, only to see the killing increase in Baja California and Chihuahua, or farther south in Guerrero state.

"It's a strategy of temporary occupation that achieves just moments of relative quiet, only to return to worsening violence," said Eduardo Valle, a writer and commentator who once worked as an advisor in the federal attorney general's office.

Many also doubt the Mexican government can do much more as long as demand in the United States remains high.

Calderon is relying too heavily on the military and ignoring other fronts such as money laundering, arms trafficking and intelligence gathering, said newspaper columnist Jorge Zepeda Patterson. In fact, drug traffickers often have better intelligence from corrupt police than the army has.

Mexico has long had problems with the drug trade. What's new is the scale and ferocity of the violence. Atty. Gen. Eduardo Medina Mora says deaths are up 47% this year compared with last year.

Largely concentrated along Mexico's 2,000-mile border with the United States and the Gulf of California state Sinaloa, the violence stems from the government crackdown, clashes between the cartels and internal fighting within the crime groups.

Calderon's predecessor, Vicente Fox, also sent troops into the streets, but his more limited effort was widely regarded as ineffective. Nearly 9,000 people were killed in drug-related violence during Fox's six-year term. Calderon, politically weak after winning a disputed election, chose a popular issue by taking a tougher approach to drug traffickers.

Troops are now patrolling in 18 of Mexico's 31 states. Working alongside federal police, they carry out raids and set up checkpoints to search for drugs, weapons and traffickers. They have disarmed municipal police to check whether their weapons have been used in shootings, tested officers for drug use and investigated them for criminal ties.

Army generals are de facto police chiefs in some zones along the border.

U.S. officials have praised Calderon's decision to extradite drug suspects, including Osiel Cardenas, the former leader of the so-called Gulf cartel, despite Mexico's traditional reluctance to send citizens to the U.S. to face charges. The Bush administration also has proposed a \$1.4-billion three-year aid package for Mexico and Central America that would provide Mexico with helicopters, high-tech scanners and other equipment.

Most drug experts agree that the army has made it harder to move drugs to U.S. markets and sharpened gang turf battles. But there is no sign that it has dislodged trafficking groups from their strongholds, or that cartel infighting will come to an end any time soon.

Even in places such as the western state of Michoacan, where large numbers of troops were sent, suspected drug

hit men fatally shot Mayor Marcelo Ibarra of Villa Madero on Sunday as he was returning from a family outing, the state attorney general's office said.

In Nuevo Laredo, where drug gangs once battled openly in the streets, officials and residents say the presence of hundreds of troops has created an air of relative calm.

"It's a lot safer," said Juan Pablo Castano Garza, an investment broker. "It used to be that people were afraid to go out at night."

But residents still drop their voices to a whisper when talking about the Zetas, whose original leaders were former soldiers. The Zetas have cemented the dominance of the Gulf cartel in Nuevo Laredo.

In Sinaloa state, the government faced a new setback last week. Grenade-hurling hit men killed seven federal agents and wounded four others in Culiacan, the state capital.

Organized crime has nationwide reach, with drug trafficking groups vying for control of shipment routes. But each works from a home base, with the Gulf cartel in Tamaulipas and the three other major gangs operating from Ciudad Juarez, Sinaloa state and Tijuana.

Analysts and officials say factional fighting is the result of unusual ferment in recent years due to the emergence of spinoff groups and the arrests or deaths of older crime bosses capable of brokering peace.

The archetypal Mexican drug cartel, with a kingpin leader and a top-down hierarchy, appears to be giving way. In place of a handful of cartels that have dominated drug smuggling in Mexico during the last three decades may emerge a multitude of smaller groups seeking a piece of the action.

The alliance of traffickers in Sinaloa is showing signs of coming apart as a result of fighting between Joaquin "Shorty" Guzman and a former deputy, Arturo Beltran Leyva.

This already has happened to the Tijuana-based Arellano Felix organization. The death of Ramon Arellano Felix in a 2002 shootout with police in Mazatlan, and subsequent arrests of brothers Benjamin and Francisco Javier, has left day-to-day operations in the hands of less-established subordinates, who are themselves under pressure. Federal police in March arrested Gustavo Rivera Martinez, the gang's suspected financial mastermind, and Saul Montes de Oca, a reputed cell leader.

Remnants have branched into enterprises such as kidnapping and car robbery. Internal tensions within the Arellano Felix group erupted April 26, when gunmen battled along a commercial street in the middle of the night. The shootout left 13 gunmen dead, and littered the street with 1,500 spent casings and nearly two dozen damaged vehicles.

The Tijuana gunfight apparently pitted factions led by two lieutenants, Teodoro Garcia Simental and Jorge Briceno.

The introduction of 3,300 federal troops, including reinforcements sent after the April 26 shootout, has added a new element. Soldiers have engaged in several shootouts with drug suspects, including a three-hour battle near an elementary school in broad daylight.

"The violence we are seeing in Tijuana is part of the restructuring of the cartels. The process of fragmentation is just beginning," said Jorge Chabat, a Mexico City-based security analyst.

In Ciudad Juarez, violence has surged since the beginning of the year. More than 100 people died in March, prompting Calderon to send an additional 1,500 soldiers to augment the 500 already there. The slayings slowed but then picked up.

Last month, the city's No. 2 police officer, Juan Antonio Roman Garcia, died in a torrent of bullets outside his home. A week later, his boss, Police Chief Guillermo Prieto Quintana, quit after receiving threats by telephone and over the police force's own radio frequency.

A retired military official, Roberto Orduna Cruz, has been named to succeed him.

Officials say police will get heavier weaponry, including compact machine guns and more powerful handguns.

"We are going to win, although it might not look like it," said Medina Mora, the attorney general.

ken.ellingwood@latimes.com

RELATED STORY Army's crucial yet risky role

Deployment could jeopardize democracy, some say. World, A8

Related Articles

- Making the soundtrack to Mexico's drug wars Dec 02, 2006
- Army's role in Mexico drug war seen as crucial yet risky Jun 03, 2008
- Mexican police official shot dead in affluent area May 20, 2007
- 24 bodies found near Mexico City Sep 14, 2008
- Suspect tells of holding a grenade Sep 28, 2008

More articles by Ken Ellingwood

More articles from the World section

California and the world. Get the Times from \$1.35 a week
--



RICHEST PEOPLE

Mexico Drug Lord On Forbes Rich List With \$1 Bln

Forbes placed Guzman at 701 on its list, tied with dozens of others worldwide with riches of some \$1 billion.

- ✓ Mexico's most wanted man Joaquin "Shorty" Guzman, blamed for thousands of deaths in a drug war, has made it onto the Forbes Magazine list of the world's richest people with an estimated \$1 billion fortune.

Guzman, who is just 5 feet tall (1.55 metres), escaped from prison in 2001 to set off a wave of killings across Mexico in an attempt to dominate the country's highly lucrative drug trade into the United States.

"He is not available for interviews," Luisa Kroll, senior editor of Forbes, said on Wednesday. "But his financial situation is doing quite well."

Forbes placed Guzman at 701 on its list, tied with dozens of others worldwide with riches of some \$1 billion.

Guzman, 51, who officials believe changes his cell phone every day to avoid being tracked, is often compared to the late Colombian kingpin Pablo Escobar, whom Forbes has said amassed a fortune of \$3 billion before he was killed by police in 1993.

- ⊗ The Mexican smuggler is "basically one of the biggest providers of cocaine to the United States," Kroll said. The magazine based its tally of his fortune on estimates from drug-trade analysts and U.S. government data.

Guzman's prison escape and ability to elude capture for eight years are an embarrassment to the Mexican government.

He has outwitted four major government drives to find him between 2002 and 2007. His escapades are the stuff of legend in the areas he controls and in popular "narcocorrido" songs that glorify drug traffickers.

Mexico's attorney general, Eduardo Medina Mora, told Reuters last week that defeating Guzman's cartel of traffickers from the Pacific state of Sinaloa was a priority in President Felipe Calderon's army-backed drug fight.

Some 7,000 people have been killed in drug violence across Mexico since the start of last year as rival gangs fight each other and Mexican security forces. Guzman's enforcers from the Sinaloa cartel are among the most vicious hitmen.

- ⊗ Forbes said Mexican and Colombian traffickers laundered between \$18 billion and \$39 billion in proceeds from wholesale drugs shipments to the United States in 2008.

Guzman and his operation likely grossed 20 percent of that -- enough for him to have pocketed \$1 billion over his career and earn a spot on the billionaire's list for the first time.

About 90 percent of all cocaine consumed in the United States comes through Mexico. It also is a major source of heroin, methamphetamines and marijuana in the United States.

PHP-NUKE

4

U.S. sees serious threat in Mexico drug violence

Date: Saturday, February 28 @ 09:01:10 CST

Topic: drugs crimes laws

U.S. sees serious threat in Mexico drug violence

By MATTHEW LEE, The Associated Press

12:22 p.m. February 27, 2009

WASHINGTON — Spiraling drug violence in Mexico, narcotics trafficking elsewhere in Latin America and a thriving opium trade in Afghanistan pose significant national security threats to the United States, the Obama administration said Friday.

In its annual survey of global counter-narcotics efforts, the State Department painted a grim picture of the situation in Mexico, where government attempts to fight traffickers are hindered by rampant corruption. The battle between authorities and drug cartels killed more than 6,000 people last year and more than 1,000 so far in 2009.

Mexico is the main transit point for cocaine entering the U.S. and a source for much of the heroin, marijuana and methamphetamine consumed in America. The report praised Mexican President Felipe Calderon for "courageous" and "unprecedented" steps to combat drug trade, but noted corruption still plagues the effort.

SUBJECTS - Illegal Immigration, illegal immigrants, drug violence , Mexico, narcotics trafficking, opium trade , OBama, State Department, rampant corruption, cocaine, Mexican President Felipe Calderon

At the same time, it said that Calderon's successes may be responsible for fueling the surge in violence as drug lords battle each other for control and take on Mexican security forces.

"They are confronting each other and the result is unfortunately a significant increase in violence," said David Johnson, the assistant secretary of state for international narcotics and law enforcement. "This is a serious challenge for both the government of Mexico and the United States."

The report offered the chilling assessment that Mexican drug-trafficking organizations have been effective at "utilizing violence as a psychological weapon, intimidating political leaders, rival groups and the general public."

The violence has spilled over across the border into the United States and the report noted an increase in contract killings and kidnappings on U.S. soil carried out by Mexican drug cartels, sometimes using weapons that were purchased or stolen in America.

It said that firearms obtained in the U.S. account for an estimated 95 percent of the country's drug-related killings. Johnson said that should be addressed by improving the ability of Mexican authorities to identify the source of weapons and cooperate with the United States in prosecuting them.

In addition to the dire situation in Mexico, the report detailed a spike in narcotics trafficking through Bolivia and Venezuela, particularly as the government of neighboring Colombia continues to crack down on the trade. Still, it said, Colombia remains the source of nearly 90 percent of the cocaine entering the United States.

The report found that despite ongoing eradication and crop substitution efforts, Afghanistan remains the world's largest producer of opium poppy, the precursor to heroin, although the report noted that several factors, including weather, led to a slight decline in cultivation and production last year.

The report said that insurgents and warlords are making hefty profits on narcotics, estimated at \$50 million to \$70 million in protection payments from farmers and another \$200 million to \$400 million from "taxing" drug processing and trafficking in 2008.

"Greater leadership and effort by the Afghan government, both at the central and provincial levels, will be required to combat the corrosive effects of the drug trade, which fuels both the insurgency, as well as rampant corruption," Johnson said.

The report criticized Bolivia and Venezuela, both of which are led by leftist presidents with anti-U.S. sentiment, for failing to cooperate in the war on drugs.

Bolivia, it said, remained the world's third-largest producer of cocaine in 2008 and is a significant transit zone for Peruvian-origin cocaine. But its counter-narcotics cooperation with the U.S. declined significantly last year as President Evo Morales expelled the Drug Enforcement Administration and the American ambassador from the country amid "increasingly hostile rhetoric," the report said.

In Venezuela, President Hugo Chavez's government "refused to cooperate on almost all bilateral counternarcotics issues, rejecting U.S. criticism and accusing the U.S. government of complicity with drug trafficking organizations," the report said.

It said that drug trafficking in Venezuela had shot up fivefold since 2002, from 50 metric tons to an estimated 250 metric tons in 2007, as cartels took advantage of its "geography, corruption, a weak judicial system, incompetent and in some cases complicit security forces and lack of international counternarcotics cooperation."

The report, which covers anti-drug developments in 2008, was compiled while President George W. Bush was in office but was signed off on by the Obama administration, which has pledged to follow through with Bush's plans to boost counter-narcotics assistance to Latin America, particularly Mexico, and also Afghanistan, which is mired in the opium trade.

Discuss this article in our Discussion Groups and meet CITIZEN ACTIVISTS!

This article comes from ALIPAC Fighting Against Illegal Immigration
<http://www.alipac.us>

The URL for this story is:
<http://www.alipac.us/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=4006>

①

Drug 'trebles schizophrenia risk'

Award-winning researchers have claimed that smoking cannabis trebles the risk of becoming schizophrenic.

ⓧ Scientists from Cardiff University studied the life patterns of 50,000 people who carried out national service in Sweden over a 27-year period.

The study found that people who had used cannabis more than 50 times before the age of 18 were three times more likely to develop schizophrenia.

The team has won an award from health charity Bupa Foundation for its work.

Project leader Stanley Zammit, a clinical lecturer in psychological medicine at the University, said the findings could be "hugely important" for public health.

Drugs debate

He said: "If cannabis does indeed increase the risk of developing schizophrenia, then you could potentially prevent hundreds of people getting the mental illness if cannabis was not available in the population."

Dr Zammit and his team won the Bupa Foundation Epidemiology Award and have presented with a cheque for £10,000 at a ceremony at Lincoln's Inn in London.

The vice-chairman of the foundation, which funds medical research, Andrew Vallance-Owen, said: "This is a key piece of research that sheds light on cannabis and a mental illness that blights the lives of one in one hundred of us."

"The findings are thought provoking not only for those people who suffer from schizophrenia, but for everyone, and will spark widespread debate."

The UK government downgraded cannabis from a Class B to a Class C drug in January 2004 after advice from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs.

But ministers said earlier this year the decision may be reviewed after studies linked the drug to mental illness.

ⓧ In March 2005 researchers in New Zealand released the results of a study which claimed smoking cannabis virtually doubled the risk of developing mental illnesses such as schizophrenia.

Story from BBC NEWS:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/uk_news/wales/4425730.stm

Published: 2005/11/11 07:34:42 GMT

© BBC MMVIII



Monday April 2, 2007

"Pot Is More Dangerous than LSD or Heroine" - Liberal UK Newspaper Apologizes for Efforts to Legalize Cannabis

25,000 of 250,000 schizophrenics in UK could have avoided affliction if they had not used cannabis says psychiatry prof

By Meg Jalsevac



ENGLAND, April 2, 2007, (LifeSiteNews.com) – The Independent on Sunday, a British newspaper notorious for its vigorous efforts to persuade the British government to decriminalize marijuana, has issued an apology for its previous position and announced that, due to new evidence concerning the dangers of cannabis, it will cease advocating decriminalization of the drug. This latest development should give serious pause to efforts in Canada, the US, Mexico and other nations attempting to legalize marijuana use.

On March 18, The Independent published an article by writer Jonathon Owen in which Owen listed some of the more detrimental effects of pot use and informed readers the newspaper would no longer continue its campaign to decriminalize pot. Owen's article, entitled "Cannabis: An Apology" lamented the newspaper's

previous decriminalization efforts and began with the subtitle: "In 1997, this newspaper launched a campaign to decriminalize the drug. If only we had known then what we can reveal today..."

Owen proceeded to summarize some of the newest data recently publicized in Britain on cannabis and the shockingly high numbers of users who are facing devastating consequences.

Citing statistics released from the National Treatment Agency, Owen revealed that the number of young people under the age of 18 who sought drug treatment for an addiction to pot almost doubled in a year's time - from 5,000 in 2005 to 9,600 in 2006. 13,000 adults also sought similar treatment for addiction to pot.

The article claimed that the cannabis that is smoked in today's day and age, referred to as 'skunk', is many times stronger than the pot of the free-wheeling 1960's. Skunk seeds are easily accessible to anyone online where the potency of the drug is revealed by its nicknames which include AK-47, White Widow and Armageddon.

According to a separate Independent article written by Antonio Maria Costa, the executive director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, "The cannabis now in circulation is many times more powerful than the weed that today's ageing baby-boomers smoked in college. In the flower-power era, the concentration of THC, as the main psychoactive substance in cannabis is known, was typically 2 or 3 per cent. Present-day cannabis can contain 10 times as much."

Owen referred to new data that asserts pot, in its present 'skunk' form, is considered more dangerous than heroine or LSD.

Robin Murray, professor of psychiatry at London's Institute of Psychiatry, says that, in his estimation, at least 25,000 of the 250,000 schizophrenics in the UK could have avoided the affliction if they had not used cannabis.

Owen identified several individuals who, along with The Independent, had previously campaigned for the decriminalization of pot but who now acknowledge, due to recent medical data, that key elements of their decriminalization arguments were flawed.

Professor Colin Blakemore, chief of the Medical Research Council admitted "The link between cannabis and psychosis is quite clear now; it wasn't 10 years ago." Conservative Party leader David Cameron has abandoned

his efforts to lighten penalties for marijuana and is instead working to have stricter laws and enforcement efforts implemented.

Costa condemned supporters of legalization saying that they "would have us believe that cannabis is a gentle, harmless substance that gives users little more than a sense of mellow euphoria and hurts no one else."

"Evidence of the damage to mental health caused by cannabis use - from loss of concentration to paranoia, aggressiveness and outright psychosis - is mounting and cannot be ignored. Emergency-room admissions involving cannabis are rising, as is demand for rehabilitation treatment."

(X) Professor Neil McKeganey, from Glasgow University's Centre for Drug Misuse Research cautioned, "Society has seriously underestimated how dangerous cannabis really is. We could well see over the next 10 years increasing numbers of young people in serious difficulties."

(X) The alarming data being released by Britain's top minds is mere confirmation of data from previous studies such as a 2005 study at New Zealand's University of Otaga which revealed that pot smoking can raise the risk of a mental illness by 50 percent. Researchers at Queen's University in Belfast, Ireland, revealed in 2004 that marijuana use can also lead to infertility in men. Long known as a 'gate-way drug', marijuana is also well known to lead users to more and harder drug use.

In recent years, several countries have been vigorously debating whether to legalize marijuana and other drugs. Under the rule of former Canadian Prime Ministers Jean Chretien and Paul Martin, the Liberal Party pushed for several years to have pot legalized in Canada, despite a Canadian Supreme Court ruling that declared it within the federal government's jurisdiction to instead outlaw it. Some Canadians thought legalization to be so essential that they formed a political party called the Marijuana Party with the express goal of having the substance legalized.

As previously reported by LifeSiteNews.com, Focus on the Family Canada research director, Derek Rogusky condemned the Liberal Party's efforts to decriminalize marijuana. Rogusky pointed out that decriminalization in fact leads to greater cannabis use.

(X) In the Netherlands marijuana decriminalization was accompanied by large increases in the number of users, particularly among youth. From 1984 to 1992 the rate of cannabis use among students increased by 250%. Rogusky added that adolescents who use marijuana are 85 times more likely to begin using cocaine than teens who have never smoked marijuana.

In April of 2006, newly elected Conservative Prime Minister Steven Harper dropped the Canadian legalization initiative.

Just a month later, Mexican Prime Minister Fox rescinded statements issued from his office which initially seemed to indicate his approval of drug legalization. Fox later refused to sign a bill into law which would have legalized marijuana, heroine and cocaine in specific quantities and instead announced, "In our country the possession of drugs and their consumption are, and will continue to be, crimes."

Canada's National Post newspaper vehemently condemned Fox's decision insinuating that political leaders in Mexico and Canada were mere pawns being manipulated by the US. The Post denounced the decisions to leave cannabis illegal saying that to do so was merely yielding to the "war on drug-style hysteria which dominates U.S. drug policy."

Another National Post writer, Alan Young went even farther and ripped into the Conservative Canadian leader and his policies - accusing the government of "rewriting history" and causing "millions of people to suffer needlessly". Young ridiculed Harper's stance on marijuana saying, "Only in the world of science fiction can a plant become public enemy number one. But the oracle has now spoken, and Canadians will probably have to endure another decade of a misguided drug strategy that converts cannabis consumers into common criminals."

Young voiced his relief that a medical exemption for marijuana would remain in the Canadian criminal code. Contrary to the scientifically proven data quoted in Owen's article, Young emphatically claimed "We know pot works and we know it has a high margin of safety, but we don't really know how it works."

Young blasted governments for disregarding or "even hiding" data that would prove the effectiveness of marijuana in health care but heralded Canada as the future of medical marijuana as "we are the only country in the world where patients have a constitutional right to use marijuana as medicine, and where the government has a constitutional obligation to produce this medicine or to facilitate reasonable access through other channels."

Interestingly, at the end of Mr. Young's article full of encouragement for the broad use of medical marijuana and expostulation on its benefits, he admitted that he is, in fact, a shareholder in Cannaset Therapeutics, a for-profit company dedicated to the research and development of medical marijuana.

Read the full Independent article with links to further coverage of the issue:
http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/health_medical/article2368994.ece

Read Previous LifeSiteNews.com Coverage:

Mexican President Fox Reverses Decision to Decriminalize Marijuana, Hard Drug, Possession
<http://www.lifesite.net/ldn/2006/may/06050402.html>

Canada Conservative Government Scraps Plan to Decriminalize Marijuana Use
<http://www.lifesite.net/ldn/2006/apr/06040401.html>

Smoking Pot Doubles Mental Illness Risk
<http://www.lifesite.net/ldn/2005/mar/05030102.html>

Further indications of the trend in Canada were shown today in a full-page opinion piece in the National Post advocating the legalization of marijuana.
<http://www.lifesite.net/ldn/2006/jul/06072707.html>

Marijuana in Canadian Drugstores by 2006
<http://www.lifesite.net/ldn/2005/sep/05092202.html>

Prime Minister Martin To Re-Introduce Marijuana Decriminalization Bill Without Changes
<http://www.lifesite.net/ldn/2004/jan/04010608.html>

URL: <http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2007/apr/07040203.html>

Copyright © LifeSiteNews.com. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-No Derivatives License. You may republish this article or portions of it without request provided the content is not altered and it is clearly attributed to "LifeSiteNews.com". Any website publishing of complete or large portions of original LifeSiteNews articles **MUST** additionally include a live link to www.LifeSiteNews.com. The link is not required for excerpts. Republishing of articles on LifeSiteNews.com from other sources as noted is subject to the conditions of those sources.

NEWS BRIEFS

LATEST	TOPICS	ARCHIVE	TABLE OF CONTENTS
HELP US	JOIN US	SEARCH	

British Newspaper, the Independent on Sunday, Calls for Marijuana Decriminalization

MARIJUANA

September-October 1997

On September 28, the *Independent on Sunday*, a major newspaper in London that serves most of the United Kingdom, called for the decriminalization of cannabis, and said it will continue its campaign "until the law is changed and possession of marijuana for personal use is no longer an offence" (Editorial, "The time is right to decriminalize cannabis," *Independent on Sunday*, September 28, 1997, sec. 1, p. 1; Rosie Boycott, Editor, "Why we believe it is time to decriminalise cannabis," *Independent on Sunday*, sec. 2, p. 1).

The *Independent on Sunday* was the first British newspaper to advocate the legalization of cannabis for medicinal purposes. It takes its position as the British government prepares to appoint its first U.S.-style "drugs tsar." According to Labour MP for Newport East, Paul Flynn, a supporter of cannabis legalization, 50% of young women and 70% of young men in the United Kingdom have used illegal drugs. Flynn claims that drug laws are unenforceable, and that the U.S.'s 20-year "war on drugs" has failed, citing the high drug-related crime and drug use rates in the United States.

The paper stated: "The irony, of course, is that one of the world's most dangerous drugs, the one responsible for more crime, more lost hours at work, more broken families, more violence, more ghastly heartbreak, is freely available in every supermarket and cornerstore in the land. If alcohol is a tiger, then cannabis is merely a mouse." The paper also addresses the issue of the gateway theory, saying, "Cannabis might lead a person to hard drugs - yes, but mainly because the same person selling you the one - cannabis - will also offer the other - heroin or cocaine. There is no physical evidence that says smoking cannabis creates the desire for 'harder' drugs." The illegality of cannabis criminalizes a part of society that would not necessarily be connected to the underworld, the paper said.

The paper has garnered, and promised to continue to seek, the backing of prominent citizens, including law enforcement officials, for its decriminalization position. Retired Detective Chief Inspector Ron Clarke, who was in the front line of Britain's anti-drug effort for twenty years, spoke out in support of the paper's advocacy. "I was convinced that this was a law and order issue ... [but] toward the end of my service I saw that this was a medicinal issue," said Clarke. He believes that legalizing cannabis is the first step in reforming the approach to the drug problem; it will free a lot of police time, and money that could be used for health and education programs. He advocates an international approach arguing that developed countries need to push third world countries toward a market of lucrative food crops, instead of opium poppies and cannabis plants.

According to Phillip Robson, MD, a consultant psychiatrist and senior clinical lecturer at Chilton Clinic, Warneford Hospital at Oxford, "Cannabis is the focus of more than 85 percent of all drug seizures, and its users account for more than 80 percent of people charged with drug offenses (40,000 in 1991)." Robson, a backer of the *Independent on Sunday* campaign, argues, "Internal restraints reinforced by family, peers, and cultural pressures ... are far more powerful than the external, legal restraints."

Labour MP Paul Flynn and his colleagues will ask the all-party Drugs Misuse Group at Westminster when



Pot Sales Bullish at Bozeman High School, youth suicide risise in Monta, as does racism by bluepastry

What can be done to prevent the tragedy of youth suicide probably the same as drug abuse, racism, shut up the messenger and pretend it does not exist!

Date: 12/10/2007 5:58:39 PM (15 mon ago)

On eleventh and main street in Bozeman, The stench of Marijuana wafts stronger than the smell of Christmas trees in this small predominantly White Upper middle class community

On Radio station KMMS in Bozeman, the host and hostess tell me this has been going on for years and the corner actually has been nicknamed " getting high corner or something similar to that.

I have written a book about a Bronx persons experience in this predominantly white Rocky Mountain Community

Marijuana is readily available throughout Montana. It is the most commonly abused drug in the state. A recent survey conducted by the Montana State Addictive and Mental Disorders Division indicated that 47 percent of all high school students had used marijuana in their lifetime. The survey also found that 27 percent described themselves as regular users. The majority of the marijuana consumed in Montana originates in Mexico. Mexican polydrug organizations transport marijuana in vehicles from the southwest border states to Montana. Locally produced marijuana is primarily grown indoors, with grows generally consisting of less than 100 plants. Trafficking groups normally acquire supplies of marijuana from the Southwest Border area and smuggle hundred-pound loads into Montana on a monthly or bi-monthly basis. Potent B.C. Bud or Kind Bud from the Pacific Northwest and Western Canada is increasing in popularity and availability. B.C. Bud is often smuggled directly into Montana across the Canadian border. This marijuana would then be transshipped to other areas of the United States.

A quick pop culture quiz to separate the hip from the formerly hip: What does the term 420 (pronounced four-twenty) mean?

If you don't know that it is an international code word for smoking marijuana -- especially at 4:20 and on 4/20 -- you are not as with it as you think you are.

The term floats just below the radar of many baby boomer parents who are totally clueless about the vast underground that celebrates the term.

Parents will hear about it by spring. The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) intends to drag the code word into the mainstream. For the first time, it will hold its annual conference on 4/20 --April 20, a day known as Stoners' New Year.

"We have scheduled the conference to coincide with 4/20, the date that has become associated in the popular culture as a special day for marijuana smokers -- sort of what 'Miller time' has become to beer drinkers," says its Web site, norml.org. "We hope to build on that tradition."

NORML's Allen St. Pierre notes that, unfortunately, 4/20/99 was the day of the Columbine school shootings, but says he believes the two were not connected.

The origin of the term is a bit hazy. Some say it has been a police radio code for "pot smoking in progress." But Steven Hager, editor of High Times, has traced it back to 1971, to some pot-smoking wiseacres at a California high school who met frequently at 4:20 to light up. The term caught on and was popularized in the counterculture by the Grateful Dead, Hager says.

It is now "known universally around the world by people in the (drug) culture," Hager says. "And for 20 years, there have been important rituals and ceremonies that happen on April 20," including those on college campuses.

Those observations now include some teens staying home from school. "At most public schools, April 20 is an (unofficial) holiday," says John Heydinger, 16, of St. Paul, Minn. "Kids hang out and party."

Those who party too hearty might say they are "420-ed," he says, or really stoned.

St. Pierre is amazed "by the mass commercialization that has grown up around 420. Kids can buy all kinds of stuff with 420 on it," including clothing through the Net and "skateboards, surfboards, snowboards."

Some teens say they use the term almost as a joke. "It's like you see someone in the hall at 4:20 and say, '420, dude, ha, ha,' " says Brady Welch, 17, of Mt. Pleasant, S.C.

Teens don't make much of it at his school, says Jared Holst, 15, of Englewood, Colo. "Kids just happen to know what it means. Someone will say when it is 4:20."

Parents are usually oblivious to the reference, says Beth Kane Davidson, director of the addiction treatment center at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, Md. "This is a whole culture with kids." The message is, she says, "even if your adolescent is at home alone at 4:20, and he smokes up, he is not alone. He knows somebody somewhere else is smoking also."

St. Pierre has some qualms about going public with the term for the NORML conference. "As soon as it gets bandied about on the Today show, 420 will fizzle as a cultural phenomenon."

Source: USA Today

I learned that in this Montana community one does not bring up racism, bigotry, anti-Semitism or question the job that Montana teachers are doing. One can finger point at MSU African American Football players who were indicted and convicted in drug sales. but, one does not criticize the predominantly white population. if one does they will be blackballed, outcast and it is much easier to attack the messenger than to deal with real Montana problems.

What are the facts about adolescent suicide in Montana?

- Suicide is the second leading cause of death for Montana youth ages 10-24.
- Only unintentional injuries such as car wrecks, drowning and fire kill more Montana youth than does suicide.
- On average, every 2 weeks a Montana youth completes suicide.

- This is not a new phenomenon. Montana has ranked in the top 5 States for the highest rates of youth suicide for the past several decades.
- Alcohol and drug impairment, a sense of hopelessness, and underlying mental illness all contribute to the high rate of youth suicide.
- In 2001, 27% of High School students in Montana reported they felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities. (YRBS/OPI)
- Well over half of all Montana High School students have used alcohol within the past 30 days.
- Montana follows the same pattern as most of the United States: females are more apt to attempt suicide, and males are more apt to complete suicide. This is because more females choose reversible means such as poison, and more males choose irreversible means such as firearms.
- It is estimated that the suicide-related medical costs in Montana for a single year total over \$6 million. Lost future earnings tops \$19 million, and loss to quality of life is estimated at \$78 million.
- The emotional and social cost of these losses is immeasurable. Most every person in Montana has felt the hurt, anger, loss, and despair caused by this kind of preventable death. What can be done to prevent the tragedy of youth suicide probably the same as drug abuse, racism, shut up the messenger and pretend it does not exist!

c-2007

Donald Iarussi MFA

Popularity: message viewed 914 times

URL: <http://curezone.com/blogs/fm.asp?i=1059877>

[<< Return to the standard message view](#)

International

Browse By: | Main Topics



British Courts Regret New Leniency of U.K. Cannabis Laws

December 09, 2007 10:28 AM
by findingDulcinea Staff

Studies suggest that Britain's decision to lessen the legal punishments for cannabis possession has backfired; crime rates are up and research points to

serious psychological side effects—America may take note.

30-Second Summary

In 2004, with the backing of British law enforcement, the U.K. government relaxed the laws prohibiting the use of cannabis.

The drug moved from "class B," which it shared with amphetamines, to "class C," a category that includes certain painkillers.

Although possession is punishable by a maximum two-year prison sentence, down from five, the change in legislation has been followed by a rise in use and a drop in arrests, according to British newspaper *The Independent*.

In fact, counter to government expectations that "cannabis use was unlikely to motivate crime," one study shows that in the English city of Sheffield 25 percent of young offenders turn to crime to pay for their habit. Of the 51 U.K. courts that specialize in underage offenses, 50 have signed a petition to the British government requesting that cannabis be returned to its previous classification.

These developments coincide with new research, published in the British medical journal *The Lancet*, showing that the drug increases the risk of psychosis among users by 41 percent.

The results of the British experiment will be chewed over in the U.S. by advocacy groups and legislators alike.

However, British writer and former doctor Theodore Dalrymple raises a point that the new statistics fail to highlight: "Far from being expanders of consciousness, most drugs severely limit it. One of the most striking characteristics of drug takers is their intense and tedious self-absorption."

Headline Links: Reclassification 'fuels crime wave' and parental complacency

In November 2007, *The Independent* published an article under the banner "Reclassification of Cannabis 'Fuels Youth Crime Wave.'" The U.K. paper reported that since the punishments for possession were lessened in 2004, cannabis use among the nation's young offenders had gone up 75 percent in some areas. That news was combined with findings that showed that domestic production of the drug had shot up, so that for the first time Britain had become a cannabis exporter.

Source: *The Independent*

[go to site »](#)

In October 2007, an association of British police chiefs warned that parents are often unaware of the possibly serious health risks of the new, more potent strains of cannabis. The warning followed a widely publicized British case in which a mother was caught supplying cannabis to her children to dissuade them from buying from street dealers.

Source: *The BBC*

[go to site »](#)

Background: Police supported the move to relax legislation

In 2002, The Police Foundation, a U.K. research charity, and London's

Home » [Beyond the Headlines » International](#)

In This Article

[30-Second Summary](#)

[Headline Links: Reclassification 'fuels crime wave' and parental complacency](#)

[Background: Police supported the move to relax legislation](#)

[Opinion & Analysis: Should the police be more tolerant of cannabis use?](#)

[Reference Material: U.K. drug classifications and U.S. laws](#)

[History: Hemp production to recreational use in the United States](#)

[View More International Articles](#)

[Subscribe to International Updates](#)

Most Popular

1. [How Safe are Smart Drugs?](#)
2. [Solar Twins: Separating Look-Alikes From the Sun's True Siblings](#)
3. [Scientists Learning More About Sleep, Although Many Questions Remain](#)
4. [Chin Up in the Downswing: A Veritable Buffet for Casual Restaurants, Home Buyers and Political Analysts](#)
5. [The Dark Side of Devotion: Your Dog May Be Jealous](#)
6. [Happy Birthday, Wyatt Earp, Legendary Tombstone Lawman](#)
7. [With So Many Confusing Studies, Who Can Parents Trust?](#)
8. [UN Racism Conference Alters Agenda After Threatened Multi-Nation Boycott](#)
9. [On This Day: Gandhi Imprisoned for Civil Disobedience](#)
10. [Happy Birthday, John Updike, Prolific Novelist, Critic and Poet](#)

encontrando
Dulcinea

Try it!
Sweet Search
A more selective search engine.

Women's History Month
[Read About Women Who Dared](#)

[Read Our Blog](#)
[Sign Up for Our Newsletter](#)
[Send Us Feedback](#)
[Take the Site Tour](#)
[Watch Daily Dulcinea](#)
[Live Updates \(RSS\)](#)

Advertisement

Metropolitan Police both backed the move to make the laws prohibiting cannabis use more lenient. The police were encouraged to support the change by an experimental initiative tried in one London borough where officers warned rather than arrested cannabis users.

Source: [The Independent](#)

[go to site »](#)

Opinion & Analysis: Should the police be more tolerant of cannabis use?

Contra tolerance

Theodore Dalrymple is a British author, essayist and former doctor staunchly opposed to the legalization of drugs, a matter he considers in a long disputation on the philosophical implications of liberalized legislation. "The consumption of drugs has the effect of reducing men's freedom by circumscribing the range of their interests," writes Dalrymple. "It impairs their ability to pursue more important human aims, such as raising a family and fulfilling civic obligations. Very often it impairs their ability to pursue gainful employment and promotes parasitism. Moreover, far from being expanders of consciousness, most drugs severely limit it. One of the most striking characteristics of drug takers is their intense and tedious self-absorption; and their journeys into inner space are generally forays into inner vacuums."

Source: [City Journal](#)

[go to site »](#)

The debate underway in Britain regarding the downgrading of cannabis recalls an essay by the late New York Senator Patrick Moynihan, titled "Defining Deviancy Down." In 1993, at a time when the New York City homicide rate had rocketed, Moynihan posited that a society can afford to recognize only a certain number of acts as deviant, irrespective of actual rates of criminality. As a consequence, if there is a boom in deviant acts, "supply" will outstrip "demand," and definitions of unacceptable behavior will change to accommodate the imbalance. Moynihan writes, "I proffer the thesis that ... the amount of deviant behavior in American society has increased beyond the levels the community can 'afford to recognize' and that, accordingly, we have been redefining deviancy so as to exempt much conduct previously stigmatized."

Source: [Journal of Criminal Justice and Popular Culture](#)

[go to site »](#)

A July 2007 report, researched and compiled by medical researchers at a number of U.K. universities, concluded that "cannabis could increase the risk of developing a psychotic illness such as schizophrenia," according to New-Medical.net. The study, funded by the U.K. government's Department of Health, found that an individual who used cannabis was 41 percent more likely to suffer from some form of psychosis. The risk was shown to rise with increased use.

Source: [News-Medical.net](#)

[go to site »](#)

Pro tolerance

The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana, more commonly known by the acronym NORML, is an organization advocating the decriminalization of cannabis. NORML argues that 11 million Americans regularly use cannabis and that "our public policy should reflect this reality, not deny it." According to NORML, "Marijuana is far less dangerous than alcohol or tobacco."

Source: [NORML](#)

[go to site »](#)

NORML supports its drive to decriminalize cannabis with reference to a 1995 article in British Medical Association journal *The Lancet*. The first sentence of that report states, "The smoking of cannabis, even long term, is not harmful to health. Yet this widely used substance is illegal just about everywhere." The article states that the "existing policies of most countries are ineffective and unworkable," and calls for reform on the model of liberal Dutch laws. The 1995 *Lancet* article might be contrasted with the one that appeared in that journal this year, reporting in the rise in psychosis among cannabis users (see above).

Source: [NORML](#)

[go to site »](#)

Comments

Type the numbers you see in the image on the right:

5403

topix

[Post Comment](#)

Please note by clicking on "Post Comment" you acknowledge that you have read the Terms of Service and the comment you are posting is in compliance with such terms. Be polite. Inappropriate posts may be removed by the moderator. Send us your feedback.

Most Recent Beyond The Headlines

[Threat of Terrorism Casts Doubt on Future of Indian Cricket](#)

[On This Day: Cultists Release Nerve Gas on Tokyo Subway](#)

[Chin Up in the Downswing: Some Companies Bolster Perks; Opportunities for Green Energy, Agriculture](#)

[As Economy Slips, Women Choose Marriage](#)

[Local Food Not as Environmentally Friendly as Once Thought](#)

[Click For More Beyond the Headlines](#)

[About Us](#) | [Press](#) | [Newsletter Sign-up](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Our Team](#) | [Site Tour](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Educators](#) | [Media Store](#)

© 2009 Dulcinea Media, Inc.

California Recovery

Successful low cost drug rehab Get Sober in Southern California
www.california-recovery.com

Drug Rehab Treatment

Intervention Program For Immediate Drug Addiction Treatment.
www.DrugRehabCenter.com

Affordable Rehab in Utah

Effective and affordable treatment for your drug or alcohol addiction.
www.AscendRecovery.com

Ads by Google

INTERNET EDITION

Wednesday March 18,
2009

Malibu's Community Forum and Marketplace

HOME BLOG LIFESTYLE REAL ESTATEWHAT'S ONARCHIVES CONTACT USDISPLAY RATESCLASSIFIED FORM

MALIBU SURFSIDE NEWS

Phone: 310-457-2112

Telefax: 310-457-9908

Email: News

Malibu Surfside News

Story Home Page

Illegal Marijuana 'Farms' Result in Major Environmental Damage to Vulnerable Environmental Areas of Parkland

BY BILL KOENEKER

A recent raid on a marijuana farm that yielded \$10 million in plants in a remote section of the Santa Monica Mountains on National Park Service property points to a growing problem on public lands.

The wilderness pot farms are wrecking havoc on the environment. The labor-intensive operations now include watering systems, use of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, according to authorities.

The marijuana garden was spotted from a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept. helicopter in August in upper Trancas Canyon. After several weeks of surveillance, a tactical team comprised of NPS and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority rangers entered the location on Sept. 19, according to a NPS report.

Over 3900 marijuana plants with a street value in excess of \$10 million were found at the site along with large amounts of plastic PVC irrigation hose and empty pesticide and insecticide containers.

NPS and MRCA staff, supported by additional personnel from Channel Islands and Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks, cut and piled the plants and loaded both plants and garbage into large sling bags for removal by air, according to the report.

The plants were then taken to the county landfill, under armed escort, for destruction.

The report goes on to state safety concerns in the remote area were numerous, including the possibility of armed growers still in the vicinity and their booby traps.

Resource impacts were significant, including the destruction of native vegetation in a pristine area, soil disturbance that promotes invasive weeds, residual effects from the herbicides and fertilizers used and the establishment of pits for trash and human waste, according to NPS authorities.

The amount of human activity required to grow the illegal crops is causing widespread damage in the National Parks, SMMNRA included, leading some experts to suggest it has become the biggest threat in the nation's cherished parks.

The herbicides and pesticides used to remove small native animals and competing vegetation, actually native plants, spill into the streams and waterways. The irrigation systems can dewater those small streams and compact soils in the gardens leading to erosion.

Growers clear trees and brush to cultivate the weed. Some sophisticated operations even include terracing hillsides that stir up soils and attract plants that would otherwise not grow. The diversion of water is hindering the movement of wildlife and pollution from fertilizer runoff is killing fish.

In some locations, thick brush is hacked and trees stripped of limbs. Irrigation hoses can be as long as a mile and the terraced hillsides are dotted with hundreds of deep holes that hold the marijuana plants.

The trend is for the growers to live on and sometimes off the land. The amount of trash is staggering in the wildland areas with empty soda and beer cans, food wrappers, propane canisters, discarded clothing and human waste.

Authorities are also finding animal traps, pellet guns, slingshots and in one instance, a rabbit hutch, suggesting the growers are hunting for food.

A ranger here in the local mountains said during a recent raid, law enforcement

City of Malibu

Malibu Chamber of
Commerce

Malibu Schools



Malibu Surfing Report



Malibu Road Info

Fictitious Business Name
Filing Forms

encountered no rattlesnakes where there should have been some. "People don't understand how these operations are impacting parklands. The NAS doesn't have the money to do the necessary restoration," the ranger said.

The pot farm in the Santa Monicas was planted along the streamside, meaning the pesticides and herbicides will eventually flow directly into the creek and the riparian corridor was torn up to make way for the marijuana plants.

The massive scale of the operations, which at one time were more generally confined to Northern California, has spread to all of the parks in the state.

Visitors, who used to worry most about encountering a bear, now have to contend with masked gunmen carrying an AK-47.

More than 100,000 plants have been seized in Sequoia-King's Canyon National Park since 2004 and recently a pot farm was discovered in Yosemite.

Park rangers acknowledge that for years they might have stumbled across a small stand or patch of the illegal substance, but in the past five years individuals have gone from planting a little more or less than an acre to hundreds of acres scattered over public lands.

Authorities say the change can be attributed to crops being handled by a handful of Mexican drug cartels, which have taken over the state's billion-dollar marijuana industry. The California product can sell for around \$4000 per pound.

The center of the industry has spread from the so-called Emerald Triangle around the Mendocino area into the Sierra foothills and the mountains southward.

The national forests are not immune. The Forest Service said 440,000 plants were seized on forest lands. In a news release issued by the Forest Service, visitors are advised to watch out for illegal marijuana gardens, which are grown in very remote locations and tend to be away from areas that are frequented by the public.

The question of restoration is only now being discussed, but in most instances, the NPS does not allocate money for such an undertaking.

Sequoia-King's Canyon NP has spent more than \$72,000 during the past two years to clean up 81 cultivation sites.

No one knows how much fertilizer and pesticide.

That coupled with the ever growing involvement of the Mexican drug cartels in the marijuana trade, has caused the problem to reach a critical juncture.

A recent study suggests marijuana is the leading cash crop in the state and the nation and eradication campaigns have done little to reduce the availability of the illegal substance.

Published reports indicate that \$1.3 million a year in federal money supports the eradication programs which last year resulted in 477 raids in 34 counties yanking out plants valued at \$6.7 billion.

The annual subscription rate for outside the Malibu area is \$95 a year and out-of-the-country is \$150 a year. No reproduction or use of contents without express written permission of the publisher. Copyright © 2006. All Rights Reserved.

Google Search

• Web • www.malibusurfsidenews.com

Home People Blogs Comments Forums Inside Guide


News

Search

**GET YOUR FREE
PROFILE AND BLOG!**

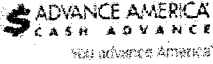
Sign In

Register Now



**AMERICA'S LEADING CASH ADVANCE PROVIDER
NOW IN YOUR LIVING ROOM.**

► Get the money you need.



**ADVANCE AMERICA
CASH ADVANCE**

Real Advance America

A blog about Business & Finance.

About witterpitters



Member Since:

August 07, 2007

Last Signed In:

March 18, 2009

Profile Views:

1042

Blog Views:

15247

[View Profile](#)

[Send a Message](#)

[Send To A Friend](#)

[Sign Guestbook](#)

[Add as a Friend](#)

witterpitters - > -> Pot growers thrive in Northern California

Pot growers thrive in Northern California

Pot growers thrive in Northern California

Cash crop now accounts for two-thirds of Mendocino County economy

By Trish Regan

Anchor

CNBC

updated 2:29 p.m. PT, Thurs., Jan. 22, 2009

MENDOCINO COUNTY, Calif. - Two hours from San Francisco, Northern California's Mendocino County is a world away from the urban bustle. At first glance, it's a picture postcard of the far West. But beneath its beauty lies a controversial, profitable and increasingly violent criminal enterprise.

The marijuana trade is an exploding underground industry. Marijuana is being grown in homes, backyards, even in our national parks.

Since the 1960s, the so-called Emerald Triangle — Northern California's Mendocino, Humboldt and Trinity counties — has increasingly become the haven for people looking to make a living growing marijuana.

"This is ground zero for marijuana. Nobody produces any better marijuana than we do right here," said Dan Offield, a helicopter pilot and agent with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, as he examines the area from a bird's-eye view.

Perhaps no one knows that better than Ukiah Morrison, a Mendocino pot grower. In most places, he would be considered an outlaw, but not in this neck of the woods.

"This is as natural as growing corn to me," he said. "This is the lifeblood of the county. And it has been for more than 30 years."

Morrison walks a fine line. He grows as much marijuana as he can without triggering a legal crackdown. He can do that because authorities here are overwhelmed by the sheer number of growers. They're also hampered by conflicting state, federal and county laws governing marijuana.

Marijuana is the major cash crop here. A county-commissioned study reports pot accounts for up to two-thirds of the local economy.

"I don't think there's anything more important in this economy. To take this out would be a major blow," said Morrison.

Though reliable numbers are hard to come by, marijuana growers in Mendocino County generate an estimated \$1 billion a year. That makes the area home to a sizable chunk of a national market for marijuana believed to be in the tens of billions of dollars.

Mendocino local Eric Sligh took CNBC on a tour of one backyard garden.

"These marijuana plants in Mendocino County can sometimes reach 14, 15, 20 feet," he said. A plant that yields about two pounds would be worth about \$5,000, said Sligh; his crop of 20 plants is potentially worth \$100,000.

Sligh's expertise in marijuana led him to publish Grow, a magazine that represents just how far the marijuana business has come. His magazine displays photos that provide an extraordinary glimpse into a drug-based economy.

"For people who live in these areas, marijuana as a topic deserves a larger forum," he said. "The publication that I've put together has definitely been referred to as 'marijuana porn.'"

There's a reason California is experiencing such a marijuana boom. First, state law allows anyone to grow a limited amount of marijuana for medicinal purposes. Secondly, there's been an increase in border security since the 9/11 terror attacks, which has cut supplies from foreign sources. The result is an ever-increasing demand for Mendocino's finest.

While California state law permits residents to grow a small number of pot plants, federal law still bans pot growing. But growers like Sligh say marijuana has become more like any legitimate agricultural commodity like grapes, wheat, even coffee.

"There's a very developed system of brokering marijuana that exists all throughout California; it's just like a commodities broker on Wall Street," he said. "They're getting it for the lowest price they can get it, and they're bringing in the buyer and trying to get the buyer to pay the highest price they can. So, the margin in between is where they make their money."

The economics of this drug are simple and attractive. It costs an estimated \$400 to grow a pound of pot. One pound sells for \$2,500 to a middle man. It then yields \$6,000 on the street. With low start-up and overhead costs, marijuana is the

Previous Posts

What Obama, Congress really knew about AIG
SPARE US YOUR FAKE FURY, DC HYPOCRITES
Obama In St Patrick's Day Teleprompt Blunder
WHAT IF BEFORE BEING ELECTED?????????
RADICAL BEHAVIOUR AND THE CONSEQUENCES
taxing health benefits????
FOR THOSE WHO HAVE THE GIGGLES TODAY!
Stocks plunge, end day at decade-plus lows
U.S. to pledge \$900 million for Gaza rebuild
How California Became France

Archives

November 07
December 07
January 08
February 08
March 08
April 08
May 08
June 08
July 08
August 08
September 08
October 08
November 08
December 08
January 09

February 09
March 09

Subscribe!

☐ RSS 2.0

☐ MY Yahoo!

☐ Go.gle

☐ subscribe with Bloglines

☐ MY AOL

How does this work?

Share!

☐ SHARE

"Teeth Whiteners Exposed"
7 Teeth Whitening Products Tested, Rated, and Reviewed. A Must Read!
www.best-teeth-whitenin...

2009 Credit Score
A Good Credit Score is 700 or Above. See Yours in Just 2 Easy Steps!
FreeCreditReport.com

1 Flat Tummy Rule: Obey
Read how I lost 42 Pounds by obeying this 1 rule (As Seen On TV).
www.TracysWeightLoss...

Buy a link here

most profitable drug of all, according to local law enforcement officials. With that kind of profit margin, marijuana is increasingly filling the gap left by other failing industries like lumber and fishing.

"If we didn't have marijuana, what would this county be like?" said Sligh. "I think we'd all be selling Amway. I mean what else are we going to do?"

When the plants are ready to be harvested, they're trimmed, dried and ready for sale within weeks.

"It's hard to tell how much the marijuana is going to sell for on the open market," he said. "Is that price going to be increased because of less supply? Is it going to be decreased because there is more supply? It's hard to tell how much marijuana is out there."

That basic law of supply and demand is just a part of life in Northern California's Emerald Triangle.

"Sometimes I feel like I'm in a bubble because I just really don't know what it's like not to grow marijuana," said Sligh

Posted in these Groups: Neighborhoods/Regions, Schools & Education
Topics:
posted by witterpitters on Friday, January 23, 2009 at 04:37 PM
Report a Violation
Viewed 87 times

Leave Comment


☐ Subscribe to comments

14 comments from 5 users

<Reverse Sort Order>

1


posted by witterpitters on Jan 23, 2009 at 04:39 PM



And we wonder why more kids don't go to college, or even graduate HS. Business is boomin' in Berkley!

Report Violation

posted by VirgilAnderson on Jan 23, 2009 at 05:26 PM



Why not - It's legal in California!
eh ... eh ... Cha ... dude!


And, you know, the Dutch have found a way to reduced marijuana use among their teenagers. Legalization of the stuff had normalized it and it became uncool to smoke. That's according to a UN study of it.

Interesting, huh?

--virgil

Report Violation

posted by witterpitters on Jan 23, 2009 at 05:40 PM



It is still federally illegal no matter how you slice it. Yup, make it boring and they move on up to bigger and better things.

I'm sure it is the same situation as the Fox Theater debacle - the "why bother" attitude. So we will/have become a state/country of 'pot heads'. What a great heritage for our kids eh? OH I forgot, The libs are going to 'take care' of all of you/us, kind of like they do already.....welfare.

Report Violation

posted by VirgilAnderson on Jan 23, 2009 at 05:54 PM



"...make it boring and they move on up to bigger and better things..."

Witters,

That didn't happen, either. You know, the gateway theory has been determined a myth - studies tell us no connection.

On another note, the percentage of those who say they smoke remains consistently the same - makes no difference what country the study is performed. Indeed, in the seventies when marijuana laws were relaxed in California, there was no increase in the number of those smoking. by percentage of the population.

What is really interesting is that the UN study on the Dutch compared the number of smokers in the Netherlands to that number in Canada - ten percent more smoke in Canada, a prohibition state, than in the Netherlands.

It appears that, by the numbers, legalization of marijuana is a better approach to related crime than the prohibition of it.

--virgil

Report Violation

posted by witterpitters on Jan 23, 2009 at 05:59 PM



Virg: most studies/polls are flawed - don't trust 'em. Go by who/what you see/hear, much better odds of being right on. Have known/seen/heard of many just here in bako town who went on to harder drugs. Check out the music/hollywood world, most, if not all, have been on a roller coaster of drugs and alcohol most of their lives and started with pot.

Report Violation

posted by VirgilAnderson on Jan 23, 2009 at 06:02 PM



"It is still federally illegal no matter how you slice it."

This is wrong, too.

Last month the U.S. supreme court ruled in the hooter tooters' favor.

--virgil

Report Violation

posted by VirgilAnderson on Jan 23, 2009 at 06:05 PM



Sorry witters,

I gotta go - children to feed and my wife has needs for me.

I'll respond tomorrow ... I promise.

--virgil

Report Violation

posted by antiextremism on Jan 23, 2009 at 06:18 PM

The pot to heroin connection is totally bogus. If one makes the claim that since MOST heroin users started with Marijuana, it must follow that marijuana leads to harder drugs is answered by this....ALL heroin users drink water and breathe air. Does that mean air and water lead to heroin use? Lotsa folks, very smart and successful folks, use and have used marijuana. Alcohol is much more dangerous a drug. You might be very very surprised by what famous people have smoked pot including presidents, astrophysicists, conservative leaders, doctors, lawyers, queens, even ol Ben franklin was purported to inbibe. Not just musicians like the Beatles or Miles Davis. One of the most brilliant people I know, who used to be a physicist at San Onofre nuclear plant is one of the biggest potheads I know. He ended up getting out of the nuclear plant world and now owns a big software company in Mexico where he makes lotsa money and continues to smoke in his 60s.

Just think if they legalized it and taxed it Witters, we'd be outta that 40 billion dollar debt quickly. There is no medical or moral reason for it to be illegal. It is less harmful than cigarettes, and less intoxicating than alcohol. What *illegal* marijuana does is bring in the criminal element. If it was legal it would be the biggest cash crop in California, and Mexican cartels could not provide a better product than what is grown in northern california.

Report Violation

posted by NancyII on Jan 23, 2009 at 06:20 PM



Alcohol AND marijuana are both gateway drugs. No myth. Tomorrow is another day virgil.

marijuana clinics prompts U.S. crackdown

The Associated Press

Published: March 10, 2007

LOS ANGELES: U.S. drug agents trailed Sparky Rose as he drove a Porsche convertible to his medical marijuana clinic.

Under California law, clinics are supposed to dispense marijuana only to seriously ill people, and clinic owners are to get only "reasonable compensation." But to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the sports car suggested that Rose might be pocketing big money from his purportedly nonprofit clinic.

Rose was arrested in October and accused of illegal drug trafficking — charges he denies. According to court papers, an investigation found records showing \$2.3 million (€1.7 million) was deposited in a clinic bank account over eight months starting in December 2005, and Rose wrote himself weekly checks of \$9,600 (€7,297).

California was the first of 12 states to allow the sale of marijuana for medicinal purposes, and it is regarded as having the loosest regulations.

Oversight is lax, and there are few specific guidelines for buyers and sellers of a drug still illegal under U.S. law.

Today in Americas

Obama calls for education changes

Budget specifics in Democratic lawmakers' hands

Obama ends Bush limits on stem cell research

Who can open a clinic, what constitutes reasonable compensation and who can grow and supply marijuana are all open to broad interpretation — factors that have helped fuel a surge in new clinics, to about 400 statewide. Los Angeles alone has about 100.

Some cities have imposed moratoriums on new clinics amid concerns that owners and buyers are abusing the law. Los Angeles Police Chief William Bratton has called for a similar

moratorium.

The DEA also has taken notice. Federal officials raided 11 Los Angeles-area dispensaries in one day in January, the largest such crackdown. They returned to one clinic on Wednesday, breaking down a door and seizing additional records.

DEA spokeswoman Sarah Pullen said authorities chose clinics that were making big money, had become hot spots for crime or were part of large franchises. The raided clinics on average made \$20,000 (€15,203) in profits each day, she said.

Many clinics were buying marijuana wholesale from street dealers and reselling it for twice the roughly \$100 (€76)-an-ounce black-market rate, Pullen said. "It's become something we can't ignore," she said.

That investigation is continuing and has yet to produce any arrests or charges. Some clinics have remained closed.

Police, clinic owners, activists and legislators — even the law's author — cannot say for sure how much money clinic owners can legally earn.

"A profit is in the eye of the beholder," said Joseph David Elford, a lawyer for Americans for Safe Access, a medicinal marijuana advocacy group.

Elford said a hands-off government approach to the clinics should boost competition, keeping marijuana prices affordable for those who need it and forcing owners to limit profits. Pullen said that has not happened.

The author of the 2003 law, then-state Sen. John Vasconcellos, has no problem with clinic owners earning hefty salaries as long as they provide help for ill people. He said the federal government should relax.

"We're helping people who are sick and they have this fascist mentality against good health and pleasure," Vasconcellos said.

Rose, who is free on bail, did not return a call seeking comment. He defended himself on his Web site, <http://www.freesparky.org/> — "My dispensary was a nonprofit and to paint me or my employees as profiteers is simply appalling."

He also wrote that the Porsche was leased and valued at less than \$50,000 (€38,008).

News Researcher Judy Ausubel contributed from New York.

Whiteners Exposed"

7 Teeth Whitening Products Tested, Rated, and Reviewed.

Which worked best?

► READ REVIEW



Most E-Mailed Articles

Last 24 Hours Last 7 Days Last 30 Days

Subscribe

1. Dirty, crowded, rich and wonderful
2. Meanwhile: Do you really want to live to be 100?
3. Singapore residents angered by development plan
4. The chimera question
5. Letter from China: A double take on Mao in money-fixated China
6. Back from the U.S., and spreading HIV in Mexico
7. Soccer: Brazil's workers beat Argentina's artists
8. Lack of financing casts shadow on solar power
9. Vietnam plans to allow expatriates to buy and sell houses
10. 'Live-in Maid': A paradox of intimacy

INTERNET
Herald Tribune
iht.com/opinion



Kristof Video: Sisters. Victims. Heroes.

More from Opinion:

- Cohen: Middle East reality check
- Krugman: The big dither
- Friedman: The Great Disruption

Ads by Google

Vaporize Your Herb
Why Vaporizing is Healthy, Cheaper and Much Better Tasting!
www.VaporOutlet.com

Clinics
Bozeman health care clinic. 24/7 Complete medical care.
hospitals-5000.com

Liposuction Clinics
Looking for Liposuction Clinics? See our Liposuction Clinics guide.
usaplasticsurgery.com

Should pot be legal?
Yes or no? Share your opinion now.
www.SpringboardAmerica.com

BabelFish
To translate this page,
click a flag!



Add this site to your favorites

Friday, February 06, 2009

THE SEEDBANK! **ONLINE SEEDSHOP SMARTSHOP HEADSHOP!**

MAGIC MUSHROOMS!

SEEDSHOP HEADSHOP SMARTSHOP GROW GUIDES DONT GET BUSTED MARIJUANA DVD LINK DIRECTORY

MAIN CATEGORIES

MARIJUANA SEEDS
MARIJUANA SEEDS BANK
HEADSHOP
SMARTSHOP
GROWGUIDES
THE SEEDBANK LOTTERY!
DONT GET BUSTED GUIDES
MARIJUANA GROW DVD
MARIJUANA PICTURES
LINK DIRECTORY
MARIJUANA NEWS
SITE MAP
ADD A SITE
CONTACT US
BOOKMARK US

The Seedbank Grow Guides Cannabis Pests Molds and Mildew

MARIJUANA SEEDS >> Cannabis Pests Molds and Mildew

How to stop insects and fungi from ruining your garden.

Marijuana growers face many challenges. Among the most persistent problems they encounter are insects, diseases, fungi, viruses and bacteria that harm plants. This article will describe the most common of these problems, and prescribe preventive and corrective measures.

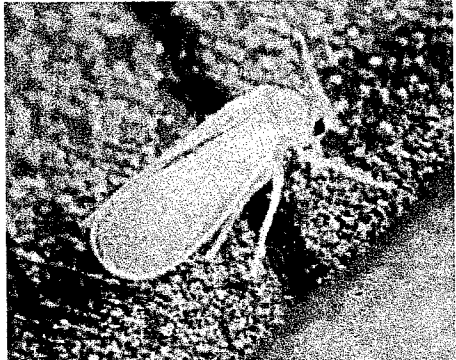
Some nasty buggers

The most common insects that plague marijuana indoors and outdoors are thrips, mites, whiteflies, fungus gnats, budworms, and caterpillars. Of these, mites are most prevalent in indoor grow rooms; outdoor growers generally find that leaf-eating insects like caterpillars and budworms are their most threatening insect pests.

AMSTERDAM MARIJUANA SEEDS
10 + 10 FREE SEEDS
YOUR AMSTERDAM CONNECTION
advertisement

THE SEEDSHOP

INDOOR SEEDS
OUTDOOR SEEDS
INDOOR-OUTDOOR SEEDS
GREEN HOUSE SEEDS
WHITE SEED STRAINS
INDICA SEEDS
SATIVA SEEDS
INDICA-SATIVA SEEDS
CANNABIS CUP WINNERS
CHEAP MARIJUANA SEEDS
TOP 5 BESTSELLERS
ALL SEED STRAINS
NEW PRODUCTS
SALE PRODUCTS



White Fly

Mites are tiny, mobile, hardy, and vicious. They travel from grow room to grow room on infected clones and on the bodies and clothes of people who have come in contact with mites. Mites live in nature and on dogs. Approximately 60% of BC's indoor grow rooms are infected with mites.

Mites puncture leaves and gorge themselves on plant juices. In the early stages of infestation, they produce little evidence of their presence, although they can be detected by careful examination of leaf surfaces with a magnifying glass. Look for yellow or white spots on both sides of the leaves. The spots radiate along leaf veins, and are evenly spaced.

In advanced stages, spider mite infestations are easily diagnosed, because the mites build white webbing which encapsulates plant sections.

Non-web leaf damage caused by mites can be mistakenly diagnosed as leaf spotting caused by thrips. Thrips are larger than mites with a more linear body shape. They bite leaves and create white or yellowish marks on them, but the marks are more clustered and solidly discolored than those left by mites. Thrips leave black fecal debris on leaves and in floral clusters.

Whiteflies are more easily seen than thrips or mites because they fly around plants, especially when plants are shaken by gardeners or air movement. As their name implies, whiteflies are pure white, and are about the size of the head of a pencil lead. Whiteflies drink plant juices and leave residue on plant surfaces that provides sustenance for harmful fungi.

THE SEEDBANK LOTTERY

WIN! 100 WHITE WIDOW MARIJUANA SEEDS!
WORTH OVER \$500 DOLLARS!

Fungus gnats and related species such as the crane fly infest soil and root zones. They feed on roots, which causes a decrease in plants' ability to uptake nutrients. Gnats are tiny, mobile, and dark. Crane flies resemble mosquitoes.

Budworms and caterpillars are problems primarily for outdoor growers. Budworms burrow into ripe floral clusters; they also spin webs around floral clusters, although this is infrequent. They eat floral clusters from the inside out, and their activities provide a vector for a pervasive cannabis fungal disease known as botrytis or gray mold.





THE SMARTSHOP

SMARTSHOP MAINPAGE
HERBAL ECSTASY
MAGIC HERBS
MAGIC MUSHROOMS
PARTY ENERGIZERS
HERBAL PSYCHEDELICS
READY TO USE GROW KITS
MUSHROOM SPORES
NEW PRODUCTS
SALE PRODUCTS



YOUR AMSTERDAM CONNECTION
advertisement



THE HEADSHOP

HEADSHOP MAINPAGE
BONGS
CANNABUDS
CHILLUMS
CLEANERS & BRUSHES
COLOR CHANGING PIPES
DUG OUT SYSTEMS
FILLING&ROLLING
SYSTEMS
HAND PIPES
HERB GRINDERS
NOVELTY PIPES
STASHBOXES
T SHIRTS
VAPORIZERS
NEW PRODUCTS
SALE PRODUCTS

Grasscity.Com/EasyBongs.Com
Advertisement

Leaf-eating caterpillars are less difficult to detect than budworms because they spend most of their time on leaves. They often manipulate leaves before eating them; their feeding habits include eating small sections of leaf in between leaf veins, or eating large chunks of leaf outright.



Mite

No fun fungi

Although healthy root zones and leaves often contain beneficial fungi and bacteria, other forms of fungi and bacteria are damaging to cannabis plants.

The most pervasive fungal invader is botrytis, otherwise known as gray mold. This fungus is particularly dangerous because it is virtually undetectable in early stages, and because it attacks the ripest, phattest buds from the inside out.

Botrytis waits until cannabis flowers are dense and well developed, then it infests the buds near the core of the flower at stem level, and quickly produces gray garbage that destroys the bud's vigor and appearance. Gray mold and other pathogens can also affect harvested cannabis, even when harvested material is placed in a freezer.

Gray mold causes problems indoors and outdoors, particularly where humidity levels are above 50%, with poor aeration of plant tops. Downy mildew is almost as prevalent as gray mold, although it causes less damage and is harder to detect. It originally appears as faint whitish or yellowish spots on leaf tops, with corresponding bumps on the undersides of leaves. Leaves curl up and mutate as the mildew takes hold.

Powdery mildew is not downy mildew; it first appears as small bumps on the top of leaves; soon, the leaves look like they are covered in dusty grit. In some cases, powdery mildew can superficially resemble resin glands.

"Damping off" molds attack seeds before and after they have been planted. The molds also attack emergent seedlings and seedlings that have attained as much as six inches in height. Damping off can keep seeds from sprouting at all. Or, they kill sprouts by rotting their stems at the base.

Viruses and bacteria

Viruses affect plants, not just people, and some viruses can jump from people to plants and back again. Among the most prevalent cannabis viruses are "streak" and "mosaic" viruses that cause swirling white and yellow discolorations on leaves. The discolorations are almost artistic, but soon, the leaves wilt.

Several species of bacteria also attack cannabis. Most of these bacteria manifest themselves as "blight" diseases that create spots on leaves, wilting, rotting, weak stems, and rapid decay of harvested material.



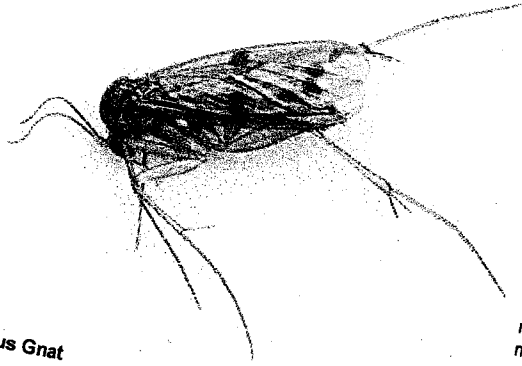
Plant infected with

Insect elimination

The first line of defense against insects and other plant invaders is to prevent them from getting near plants. Indoor growers achieve this by carefully filtering air intakes and other vectors. Outdoor growers have a harder time preventing insects from alighting on plants.

All growers should examine plants daily with a magnifying glass, looking for insects and insect damage. Grow sanitation is also important; growers should maintain a pristine environment: remove all plant debris, use sterilized equipment, not bring dogs into grow areas, make sure water and water reservoirs are disinfected, do not enter a grow area with clothes after visiting an infected grow area.

Leaf infected by a mosaic virus



Fungus Gnat

Parasitic wasps released before whitefly infestation can keep whiteflies from taking over a grow situation. Sprays containing pyrethrum and organic gardening soap kill some whiteflies, especially when they are airborne. Whenever using sprays, be sure to spray the underside of leaves thoroughly, as this is where many pests live.

Fungus gnats thrive in overfertilized, over-watered grow mediums, especially those where organic fertilizer high in nitrogen has been used. Gnats can be killed by disturbing soil, heating soil, by predatory wasps, and by applying insecticidal soap, neem, rotenone, and garlic oil to gnat infestations.

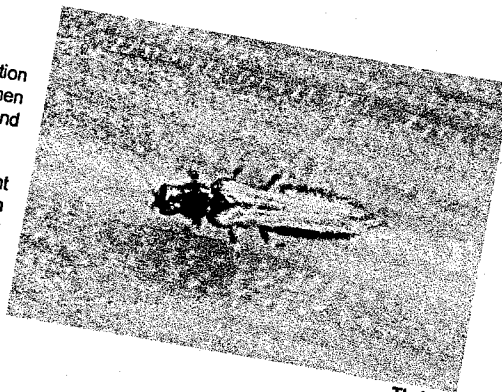
Budworms and caterpillars can be controlled by shaking plants several times a day to dislodge the insects. Preventive sprays containing insecticidal soaps and organic toxins can be used selectively during vegetative cycle, but extreme care must be taken during floral cycle.

It is usually best to watch for the gray mold-like symptoms of budworm and remove the bud or section of bud where the worm resides, rather than to risk spraying any kind of toxin on a dense, harvest-ready bud.

Virus, bacteria and mold control tips

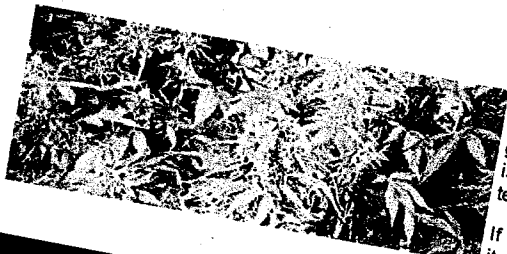
High humidity (over 50%) and grow environment contamination should be eliminated. Grow mediums should be sterilized and then treated with beneficial fungi (such as *Trichoderma* and *Glucidium*) and beneficial bacteria.

Light intensity should be adequate for penetration deep into plant canopy, both vertical and horizontal. Plants should be directly in line of fans and other aeration. In-line charcoal filters and other traps should be in place on all air intakes. Strict sanitation controls should be in place for anyone who enters a grow environment.



Thrips

"Bordeaux mixture" can be useful for controlling gray mold. A spray containing copper, Bordeaux mixture, and a beneficial organism called *Bacillus subtilis* is effective against downy mildew. Spraying with bicarbonate of soda, organic horticultural oils, and sulfur can kill powdery mildew. Some growers use sulfur burners to create airborne sulfur treatment against powdery mildew. Bacteria can be controlled using Bordeaux mixture.



Viruses are impossible to kill once they have infected a plant. A preventive measure to protect against viruses, other than the generic tactic of preventing them from entering grow environments, is to keep plants' immune systems healthy with proper watering, temperature, root zones, and nutrients.

If molds, fungi, viruses or bacteria take hold in a grow environment, it may be necessary to remove affected plants.

If spider mites establish themselves in a grow area, it is virtually impossible to get rid of them without removing all equipment and plants from the area and totally cleansing the space. Beneficial predatory mites placed on plants before spider mite infestations take hold can help defeat spider mites. Spraying mite-infested plants with organic soap-garlic-cinnamide sprays also kills mites. The use of toxic poisons on cannabis, at any stage in its growth cycle but especially during flowering, is dangerous to the consumer and unethical.

Thrips can be controlled using predatory organisms and sprays, especially sprays containing pyrethrum, nicotinic acid, organic soap, and garlic. Thrips often rely on grow medium for their reproduction, so be sure to treat grow mediums as well as plants. Whiteflies like the color yellow, one control for whiteflies is a commercially available yellow strip coated with sticky material that attracts whiteflies and then traps them.

The Seedbank of Amsterdam Netherlands Marijuana Genetics



Welcome to the Cannabis Seed Bank Amsterdam, We are Producers and Distributors of some of the finest Cannabis seed varieties in the Netherlands, all our seed companies have won awards in the High Times Cannabis Cup, High Life Awards and The Hash Bash, and are established names in Biological growing.

[Canada Marijuana Genetics](#)

[Dutch Marijuana Genetics](#)

[UK Marijuana Genetics](#)

[Swiss Marijuana Genetics](#)

[European Marijuana Genetics](#)

[USA Marijuana Genetics](#)

[African Marijuana Genetics](#)

[Australian Marijuana Genetics](#)

[Other Marijuana Genetics](#)

[Search Marijuana Genetics](#)

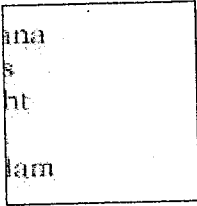
[Genetic Links](#)



[Home / 420 Affiliate](#)
Intellectual Copyright 2003 - 2013

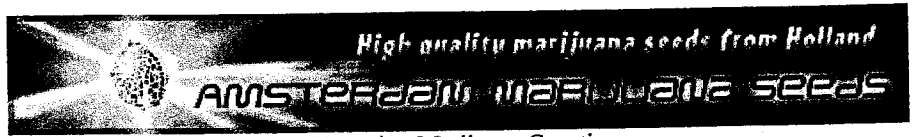
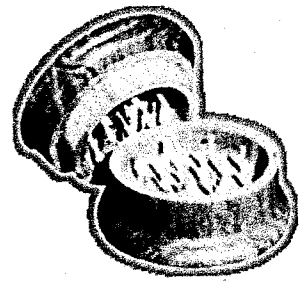
Varieties	Growing Location	Cannabis Seeds Description
Afghan	Indoor / Outdoor	The original Affi, fat leaves covered in loads of THC and a wonderful spicy erotic smell. Great high, very easy to grow, very good yield, nice Strong stems for big buds.
Citral	Indoor / Outdoor	Very strong (heavy) high, Citrus smell, lots of firm buds. brown with THC. Ideal for the evenings, the longer you flower her the more THC she produces.
Afghan Widow	Indoor / Greenhouse	A special combination of Afghan Male and the Original White Widow makes this plant special, easy to grow, heavy with THC and the high is unique, long lasting cerebral high with a smile.
Skunk Special	Indoor / Greenhouse	The very original Skunk strain, classic skunk taste nice buds, good harvest, a blast from the past. Sleepy high. Sweet fruity smell.
Skunk X	Indoor / Greenhouse	Very strong Skunk developed from the original strain and improved to produce bigger buds and a larger crop.
Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis)	Indoor / Outdoor	The original strain of the most popular seed, are we in the Seventies yet. Sturdy, very strong smell and a very good high.

Shiva	Indoor / Greenhouse	Very strong, short compact plant big buds and a nice warm enjoyable high, lots of THC. Easy to grow another winner.
Shiva x Northern Lights	Indoor / Greenhouse	Loads of THC, great head high, good yield, easy to grow.
Shiva x Afghan	Indoor / Greenhouse	Fast Growing, lovely structure. Loads of bud's, warm easy high, mellow smoke.
Shiva x Northern Lights x Haze	Indoor	Big soft fluffy THC covered buds with a lovely fresh smell, good up high, very bushy plant. nice smoke.
White W.	Indoor / Greenhouse	Great Bubblegum Smell, loads of THC covered buds, nice flavor not too overpowering, cool smoke.
Haze	Indoor / Greenhouse	Bushy compact, lots of lovely mellow buds for a good clean high.
Misty	Indoor / Greenhouse	Sister of the White Widow, less temperamental (easy to grow), quite easy to grow, very high percentage of Females 99%. Dripping with THC. Strong Cerebral high, Great smell Lovely plant.
Master Kush	Indoor	Two times winner of the High Times Cannabis cup. Nice smelling Buds special taste.
Hindu Kush	Indoor / Outdoor	Easy to grow, Strong plant and a strong high, big heavy THC soaked buds, enjoyable high. Big bushy plant.
5 Way	Indoor / Outdoor	Bigger buds than Big Bud, lots of THC, easy to grow and early flowering. some inconsistency but well worth growing.
Top 44	Indoor / Greenhouse	Big buds, nice stocky plants, easy to grow, fast flowering, Lovely smell + clean high.
Millennium Mix	Indoor / Greenhouse	A mix of 20 Seeds from the above 16 varieties. Great for the first time grower, good mix of flowering times and highs. Outstanding value. Free Registered Post is not included with this offer.
Early Bud (Early Girl)	Outdoor	This Plant will start to flower after seven weeks (7) even if it is grown indoors so you are sure to get a harvest. Shortish strong stemmed plant, Big buds, Early flowering = less chance of mold, nice plant, not too smelly, will produce some nice THC. Ideal for the City grower great for gardens.



Purple Power	Outdoor	Fast growing Purple, Blue and Lavander Buds and a wonderful aroma. Easy to grow, early flowering, lovely to look at and a pleasure to smoke, medium THC. Top Choice for Outdoors in the year 2000.
--------------	---------	--

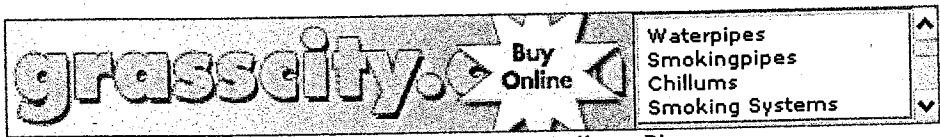
[bibliography cannabis-seedbank.nl](http://bibliography.cannabis-seedbank.nl)



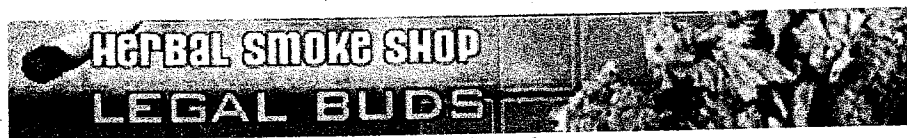
[Champion Marijuana Genetics](#)



[Buy Dutch Marijuana Seed Genetics](#)



[Huge Selection of Smoking Marijuana Pipes](#)



[Buy Legal Bud](#)

- [Canada Marijuana Genetics](#) / [Dutch Marijuana Genetics](#) / [UK Marijuana Genetics](#) / [Swiss Marijuana Genetics](#)
- [European Marijuana Genetics](#) / [USA Marijuana Genetics](#) / [African Marijuana Genetics](#) / [Australian Marijuana Genetics](#)
- [Other Marijuana Genetics](#) / [Search Marijuana Genetics](#) / [Genetic Links](#) / [Home](#)

